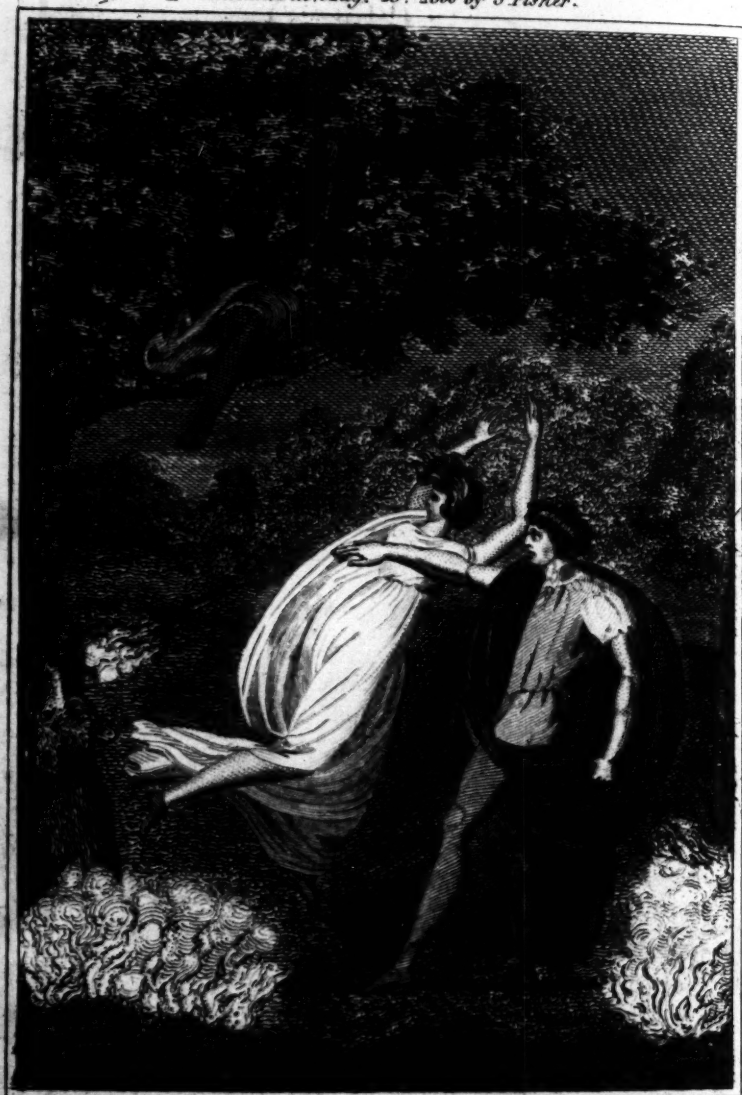


London. Pub. Aug. 23rd. 1800 by S. Fisher.



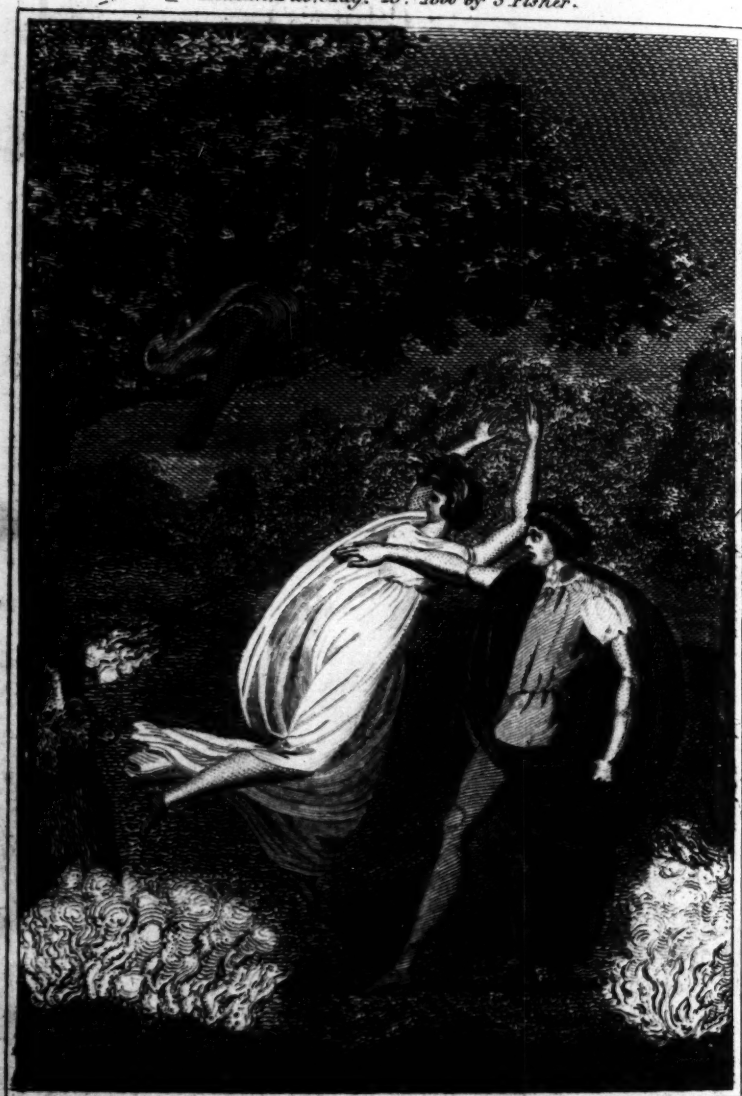
S. Fisher del.

W. B. sculp.

*Pierre Vaund throwing lighted faggots at a Bear who
was climbing a tree after his Negro.*

Page 50.

London. Pub. Aug. 23rd. 1800 by S. Fisher.



S. Fisher del.

W. B. sculp.

*Pierre Vaund throwing lighted faggots at a Bear who
was climbing a tree after his Negro.*

Page 50.

The
True & Surprising Adventures,
Voyages,
SHIPWRECK & DISTRESSES,
of
Mons. Pierre Viaud,

A French Sea-Captain, & a Native of Bourdeaux.

Translated by
MR^S GRIFFITHS.

Bowman Sc.



Page 77.

Oron Sc.

L O N D O N

Printed & Sold by S. Fisher,
N^o 10, S^t John's Lane, Clerkenwell,
also Sold by T. Hurst Paternoster Row.

1800.

#73-607

THE
FRENCH EDITOR'S
PREFACE.



THE Adventures of Monsieur Viaud must interest every sensible and humane mind. The Reader must be astonished at the shocking miseries he sustained, during the space of eighty-one days, from the 16th of February, 1766, to the 8th of May following.

Every article in this relation is sufficiently attested. Monsieur Viaud is alive, in perfect health, and much esteemed by all who know him. His good character, with his knowledge in maritime affairs, has obtained him the perfect confidence of the most eminent merchants. He has published these Adventures with his name affixed to them; and the manuscript is intirely in his own hand, except a few alterations I have taken the liberty of making, in some of his words and expressions, in compliance with certain difficult readers, whom the simple, and sometimes coarse stile of a mariner might perhaps offend.

But I have carefully preserved all his ideas, his reflections, and his manner of expressing them. I have preferred, to a more critical correction, that sailorly roughness, if I may hazard the phrase, which is not, however, without its merit, and which carries an air of sincerity and frankness in it, that must ever be listened to with pleasure.

The misfortunes of Monsieur Viaud have no occasion for any extrinsic recommendation; but you are not to expect the history of his life, in these pages; they contain only an account of his shipwreck, and the perils, wants, and miseries, which were the consequences of it.

Monsieur Viaud is a sea-captain, and has been acknowledged in that rank, at the Admiralty-office of Marennes, in the month of October, 1761.

PREFACE,
By Mrs. GRIFFITH.

THE Work here offered to the Public is certainly the most incredible story that ever was authenticated; and yet that the facts are undoubtedly true, every intelligent reader must be sufficiently assured, on the perusal of the whole; for, independent of the opinion which we must be led to conceive of the Writer's veracity, from the ingeniousness of his style, there are concurrent and corroborating circumstances enough, which the Author had no manner of power over, to evince the truth of his narrative.

No book can be worth reading that does not afford some subject matter for reflection; and, I think, I may venture to say, that the following pages must necessarily inspire the most timid and desponding mind, with a thorough reliance upon Providence, from the almost visible interposition of its divine care in the preservation of these three persons lives; while their amazing deliverance amounts almost to a proof, that patience, resolution, and perseverance, are a match for difficulty and danger, and are sometimes able to combat death itself.

The original of this work ran through several editions in France, where it was universally received, not as a romance, but as a series of surprising, interesting, and extraordinary facts, and was bought up with so much avidity, that the Gentleman, who was so obliging as to lend the book to me, could not procure another for himself.

There appear to be some mistakes in the original, with regard to the rank or station of Monsieur Viaud. He speaks of himself as setting out a first mate only. He is styled, in the certificate, a Sea-captain, and also an Officer in the Blues; and, in the Editor's Preface, he is said to have been acknowledged or enrolled as a Sea-captain, by the board of admiralty at Marennes in France.

Now how this same captain could belong both to the sea and land service, or be an officer in the navy, and a mate of a trading vessel, at the same time, I leave to those who are versed in the French military and marine to reconcile; and, as to Monsieur Viaud's own expression, where he calls himself Capitaine en second, which I have taken the liberty to translate into First Mate, perhaps it may signify a superior rank in the French navy, though we have no such distinction in ours. But this being a matter relative merely to Monsieur Viaud himself, and having nothing to do with the circumstances of his story, is of no manner of consequence, whether it be cleared up or not.

I have used the same freedom with this work, as with my former translations, of throwing in a few reflections, which naturally occurred in some passages of the narrative. This serves to relieve the dullness of the task; but at the same time I have endeavoured to keep as close to the simplicity and frankness of the Author's style as the difference of our language would permit.

If the recital of Monsieur Viaud's adventures meet with as favorable a reception in this country, as he did himself from our countrymen in the New World, it will afford me the highest pleasure to have introduced him in an English dress to the Public, to whom I have the honour to be,

A much obliged,

and most obedient servant,

The TRANSLATOR.



CERTIFICATE GIVEN BY

Lieutenant SWETTENHAM to Monsieur VIAUD.

I, the undernamed George Swettenham, lieutenant of the ninth regiment of foot, in the service of his Britannic Majesty, and commander of the Fort St. Mark, in the Apalachian mountains, do hereby certify, that on the information of a savage, who had reported his having met with a dead body, on a strand about forty miles from hence; and having strong reasons to think that a ship had been wrecked on that coast, which I feared was one that I had expected for some time before, and had received no account of, I detached four soldiers, with my interpreter, under the command of Mr. Wright, ensign in the same corps, to visit that coast, and succour all those that he might meet with in any distress.

Mr. Wright, on his return, presented the bearer Le Sieur Viaud, and a woman of the same nation, to me, whom he had found on a desert coast, in the most deplorable situation, almost famished with hunger, having nothing to subsist on but a few oysters, and some fragments of a negro that they had been reduced to the necessity of slaying for food.

Le Sieur Viaud informs me, that he is a sea-captain, and an officer in the Blues, in the service of the French King; that a savage he had met with, and who undertook to conduct him to St. Mark, had robbed him of what effects he happened to have saved from a shipwreck; and fled away, during the night, in his canoe, leaving him and some other companions on a desert island.

Mr. Wright also presented to me a young man, son to the woman above-mentioned, whom he had found in another desert island, in a more desperate condition than the former persons, as it was impossible he could have existed an hour longer, without his assistance, having neither food, nor sense or motion left, when he found him.

The shocking situation they were all three in, upon his first meeting with them, their extreme weakness, and some particulars I have since been informed of, from some savages, sufficiently prove that the story told me by Le Sieur Viaud, of his having been pillaged and betrayed, in the manner aforesaid, is true.

On the credit of which, I give this certificate to the said Sieur Viaud, who means to set out for St. Augustine, by the first opportunity, and to go from thence into some of the French colonies.

Fort St. Mark, May 12th, 1766.

GEORGE SWETTENHAM.

THE
TRUE AND SURPRISING ADVENTURES,
VOYAGES,
SHIPWRECK, AND DISTRESSES,
OF
M. PIERRE VIAUD.

My dear Friend,

YOU have suffered much anxiety about me, of late. You concluded, as well as my whole family, that I had perished in my last voyage.

The letter I lately sent you, you say, has wiped away those tears that the apprehension of my loss had caused to flow. The concern of my friends flatters and softens me; it serves to console me for my miseries past, and I rejoice in the miraculous preservation of my life, for the sole satisfaction of being beloved.

You complain that I have merely informed you of my shipwreck, without acquainting you with any of its particulars; and having first had your mind rendered easy with regard to my life and health, you desire now a more circumstantial detail of my unhappy adventures.

I cannot refuse your request; though it is a task that friendship alone could urge me to, as even the recollection of sufferings, like mine, must ever be attended with pain. I cannot reflect on the miseries I have endured, without the severest shock. I am myself equally astonished, with the rest of the world, how it was possible for me to have survived those wants, those dangers, and those difficulties, which I am going to relate; convinced that nothing similar has ever been sustained before. Many of them will excite the compassion of an heart like yours, and others will strike your mind with horror. You will see to what an excess of despair my sufferings had reduced me; and will not be surprised, therefore, that they had exhausted my strength, weakened my constitution, and that a situation and circumstances so forlorn as mine should have sometimes impaired my reason.

You are not to expect order or method in my story. I have lost most of the dates: for how could they have engaged my attention, while I was labouring under the pressure of such complicated ills? Every succeeding day still added to my sufferings, and the present distress affected me

too strongly to afford me thought sufficient to reflect upon the miseries of the preceding. During the space of two months, my oppressed soul was incapable of receiving any other idea but that of the utmost sorrow. Its whole faculties were suspended by the delirium and transports of despair; so that the æras of events have been totally effaced from my memory, and I can recollect but little more, at present, than that I have been miserable.

I shall now relate the circumstances of my misfortunes, just as they happened, without ornament or art; they need none of those heightnings to interest the feelings of my friend. I am but little used to writing; you must not, therefore, expect to meet with elegance in my stile, in which you will find nothing but the frank language of a sailor, which, I hope, will be accepted as an apology for its incorrectness.

When I sailed from *Bordeaux*, in the month of *February*, 1765, aboard the good ship *L'Amiable Suzette*, commanded by Monsieur *St. Cric*, under whom I served as mate, I had but little apprehensions of the misfortunes and disasters that fate had prepared for me in the *New World*; my voyage was prosperous, and I arrived at *St. Domingo*, without being interrupted by the least disagreeable or untoward accident.

I shall not relate any particulars of myself during my abode in that island, the business of commerce having occupied my whole attention while I staid there. I then prepared to return to *France*; and the day was fixed, when I happened unfortunately to fall sick, about a week before we were to set sail.

I was much afflicted at the thought of being left behind; but, imputing my illness merely to the climate, I persuaded myself that my health would return, on my quitting the island. Upon this presumption, I embarked with my friends, but did not receive the relief I had hoped for, as the air of the sea, and the motion of the vessel, increased my disorder so much, that the captain assured me I could not pursue the voyage without manifest peril of my life; of which the great weakness I soon felt, helped to convince me. Upon which I consented to be put any where on shore; but, as they could not turn back again to *St. Domingo*, they landed me at the key of *St. Louis*, a small island in view of it, sometime in the month of *November*.

Some days of rest at *St. Louis*, with the kind attention of Monsieur *Desclau*, an inhabitant of that place, who had given me an apartment in his house, soon restored me to my health. I waited with impatience for some opportunity of returning to *Europe*, but there did not one occur while I remained there.

A long absence from my native country, I knew, must be very prejudicial to my affairs; which reflection began soon

to render me melancholy, and unhappy. My kind host as quickly perceived it; and the friendship with which he had treated me, during my illness, had inspired me with so lively a gratitude, and such tender esteem for him, that I could not conceal the cause of my uneasiness from him. He interested himself in my anxiety, and said every thing in his power to comfort me.

One day he took me aside, and addressed me in the following manner: "I have reflected a good deal upon your present situation. The fear of continuing too long without employment, is the principal thing that distresses your mind, for the present; and the hope of getting again into business, makes you wish to be able to get back to *France*, as soon as may be. But no opportunity has yet offered for that purpose; and, if you will take my advice, you will trouble yourself no farther about that scheme, but try your fortune on your own fund, and I dare say you will be able to treble it. I purpose soon to trade to *Louisiana*, with certain commodities that I know will produce a good profit there, and shall bring back such goods in exchange, as will here yield me an advantageous return. I am perfectly well acquainted with the nature of this traffic; as I have made several beneficial trips there already; therefore, embark yourself and substance with me, and I doubt not but you will one day thank me for the friendly advice I now give you."

In the circumstances I then was, I had no alternative to chuse. The proposal of M. *Desclau* I knew to be dictated by friendship, and I did not hesitate a moment about the acceptance of it; so that we immediately entered into partnership together, in proportion to our respective funds. He laid in the proper merchandizes for us both, and served me on that occasion with the warmest zeal, and most exact probity.

We hired a brigantine, called the *Tyger*, commanded by M. *La Couture*, and the ship was freighted with all possible dispatch. On the second of *January*, 1766, we embarked, sixteen in number, namely, the captain, his wife, their son, his mate, nine sailors, M. *Desclau*, a negro that I had purchased as a slave, and myself.

We set sail from the road of *St. Louis*, steering toward the *Bay of Jeremiah*, a little port that lies north of *Cape Dame Marie*; where we staid twenty-four hours. From thence we directed our course toward *Little Goave*; but this second trip was not as happy as the former. We sustained an adverse wind, for twelve hours, that would have infallibly wrecked us on the *Cayes-Mittes**, if the violence of the

* *Little islands on the west of the Spanish Isle. They make part of the Antilles, or Carribee islands.*

storm, which abated a little, had not suffered us to make use of our sails to tack about, and get clear of that coast.

Less obstinacy and more experience, on the part of our commander, would have prevented all this danger. I perceived, from this instance, that he was but a poor mariner, and foresaw that our voyage would not terminate without some accident or other, if the ship was left entirely to his conduct; therefore I resolved to attend closely to all his motions, to prevent, as far as possible, the perils to which his wilfulness and ignorance were likely to expose us.

Our business obliged us to remain three days at *Little Goave*, and we then set sail again for *Louisiana*; but the winds continued still adverse, during our whole course. On the 26th of *January*, we had a view of the *Isle of Pines*, toward the west of *Cuba*, which our captain affirmed to be the *Cape of St. Anthony*. I took the elevation, and soon perceived that he was mistaken; but I tried in vain to convince him of his error; for he still continued obstinate, and pursued his course without any manner of precaution, until he had drove us among the rocks, where we were hemmed in, when I perceived our situation in the middle of the night, by the light of the moon.

I did not waste time in reproaching his wilfulness; he began then to find how much in the wrong he had been not to have listened to me before; and fear, having silenced his self-sufficiency, constrained him to acknowledge it. The danger pressed. I supplied the office of the mate, who happened to be ill, and confined to his bed. I made them tack about, and so performed the only operation that could save us from destruction. This succeeded, and we got clear; but, after having been extricated from this peril, we soon found ourselves exposed to a number of others.

Our vessel, from the violent working of the sea, having began to spring a leak, in several places, the crew grew impatient, and called on me to take the command of the ship; but as I had only a speculative knowledge of those coasts, which I had never visited before, I was conscious how imperfectly mere theory can supply the deficiency of practice; and in consideration, also, of the mortification that the captain must have suffered upon this occasion, I thought proper to leave to him the conduct of his own vessel; and contented myself with watching all his manœuvres, as well for my own safety, as to quiet the minds of the whole crew, who had now lost all manner of confidence in him.

At length we doubled the *Cape of St. Anthony*; here new gusts of wind assailed us again, and opened such large passages for the water, that it was as much as the working of our two pumps, without intermission, could do to prevent our sinking. The wind continued contrary still, the sea

grew boisterous, and threatened us with a violent storm. We were not in a condition to ride it out; the terror became general on board, as no one favourable sign appeared in our lamentable situation to rest a hope upon.

In these shocking circumstances, on the 10th of *February*, about seven in the evening, we fell in with a *Spanish* frigate coming from the *Havannah*, which was carrying the governor and commissioned officers to take possession of the *Mississippi*. They hailed us to join company, which we joyfully agreed to; for it had been the very request we should have made to them, if they had not prevented us.

We did not keep company long with the frigate; we lost her in the night; they could use their small sails, which we durst not venture.

In the morning we missed the vessel, but found that our own had sprung a new leak; which threw us into the utmost consternation. The whole crew began to turn their eyes upon me, and I immediately advised the lightning the ship. This must be always a sad necessity to the merchants on board, in cases of such distress, who are often obliged to throw goods into the sea that they had purchased with industry and labour; and on the return of which they had, perhaps, made speculations that might have doubled their profits. But in such a situation, the preservation of our life is the first consideration; we attend to that alone, and forget every other.

The brig was discharged of all the heavy merchandize, in a few minutes; and I got large lading pails framed of the barrel-staves in which our merchandizes had been packed up, in order to assist the pump to keep the ship from sinking. But all in vain. The water forced itself through the chinks of the vessel, more and more, and the strength of our hands on board became less and less; so that, finding it impossible to keep the sea for any length of time, we took the resolution to stand in for the *Mobille*, which was the only port that the wind would then suffer us to steer to, and which was also the nearest harbour we could make.

We then began to run for the *Mobille*, but fate opposed our gaining that port; the wind that had been favourable to us at first, shifted against us in about two hours, which obliged us to forego our purpose; and we then made several attempts to reach *Pensacola*, which was rather more distant from us than the other: but that hope failed us also, the winds continuing still to oppose every endeavour we made; so that we were left without resource, in the midst of an enraged ocean, against which we combated at a disadvantage, deprived of all prospect of reaching any haven at all; and expecting every moment the deep to open its waves, and swallow us up in its bosom.

At length, finding it utterly impossible to save either our ship or effects, the preservation even of our lives becoming every moment more difficult, we began to apply every thought and deed to that single consideration; we therefore agreed to run the vessel aground at the *Apalaches*, but were not able to atchieve even this desperate adventure; and we continued still to be the cruel sport of waves and wind, in a state between life and death, fighting over our misfortunes, certain of our destruction, and yet making indefatigable efforts to extricate ourselves from the perils that surrounded us.

Such was our situation, from the 12th to the 16th of *February*, when, in the evening, about seven o'clock, we found ourselves striking against a chain of rocks, above two leagues from land; and the shocks were so violent that they opened the stern of the ship; in which condition we remained for half an hour, under the most inexpressible terror and alarm, till the force of repeated surges drove us, at length, over the rocks, and set us afloat again, without our rudder, at the mercy of the waves that assailed us without, and those that forced their way into the vessel, which increased every moment.

Even the little hope that we had till then preserved, failed us all at once—on the instant, the ship resounded with the lamentable exclamations of the mariners, who exchanged their last adieus, prepared for death, and implored the mercy of their Creator, by addressing their fervent prayers to Heaven.

What a spectacle, my dear friend, was here! None but an eye-witness of it can form an adequate idea of our distress; and that which I am taking so much pains to trace out to you, falls infinitely short of the reality.

I equally shared the terrors of the crew; and though my despair might have been less apparent, I dare say that it was not less violent than theirs. The extremity of the misfortune, with the certainty of its being inevitable, served to supply me with a sort of seeming firmness; I submitted to the fate that attended me, when it was beyond my power to avoid it; I resigned my life to the Being who had given it, and preserved presence of mind enough to look upon the last moment with calmness, and to be still active in my endeavours to retard it.

This visible steadiness and resolution happily imposed so far upon the whole crew, that it inspired them, even in the instant of destruction, with such a confidence in me that rendered them attentive and obedient to all my directions. The wind drove us toward the land, while I continued to steer by the shift of our foremost sail, for want of a rudder; when, by an unexpected miracle, we arrived, that very

night, about nine o'clock, on the east of the island, and within a musket-shot of the shore.

The agitation of the sea would not permit our reaching it, and we prepared to cut up our masts, and bind them together with the cordage, so as to serve us for a float to carry us to land; but while we were at this work, the violence of the wind, and the force of the waves, overset the vessel on its larboard side, which unforeseen motion had like to prove fatal to us all, by casting us into the sea; however, most of us had the fortune to escape this shock, and the few who were thrown out were lucky enough to recover the ship again, by the assistance we gave them.

The moon, which until this moment had lent us a feeble light, interrupted only now and then by the intervention of the clouds, now left us suddenly in the dark; and in such circumstances, it was impossible for us to attempt reaching land; so that it was resolved to pass the night on the outside of the vessel.

What an age of night it was! A deluge of rain fell on us all the while; the store-house of the waters seemed to have been broke open; the waves rising every instant, covered our bark, and rolled their mountains over our heads; the thunder roared through the air, and the thick intervals of lightning only served to open to us the horrid prospect of a boundless horizon, and a devouring sea, ready to swallow us up, every moment, which was as quick succeeded by the most dismal darkness.

In such a situation, stretched along on the outside of the bulk, fastening ourselves to every thing we could lay hold off, drenched through with rain, petrified with cold, spent with the constant efforts we were obliged to exert against the fury of the waves, which endeavoured to wash us off from our hold, we at length perceived the morning's dawn, only to afford us a clearer view of the dangers we had passed, and those we had yet to encounter.

This prospect of our situation appeared still more tremendous; we perceived, indeed, that we were not far from land, but we saw that it was impossible to reach it. The raging of the sea would have daunted the stoutest and most expert swimmers; for the waves rolled with such fury, that whoever had delivered himself over to them, must have run the risk of being launched back again into the main ocean, or dashed to pieces against the ship, or the shore.

At this sight and reflection the whole crew were seized with the extremity of despair; their groans and exclamations redoubled, and were repeated with such strength and fervency, that they were heard amidst the raging of the winds, the roaring of the thunder, and the dashing of the

waves, which, all joined together, augmented the horror of the sound.

Several hours passed thus, without any change in our dismal situation, when one of the sailors, a *Dutchman*, who had been all that day the loudest in his complaints and cries, and who had, from the first appearance of danger, shown himself the most faint-hearted of the crew, ceased his lamentations on the sudden; and, after keeping silence for some minutes, raised up his head and voice with an extraordinary emotion. "What are we waiting for?" (cried he out, with the resolution of despair.) "Death furrounds us on all sides:—he is just raising his arm against us; let us anticipate him, and hasten the blow he is so slow to strike:—let us meet him in the deep; perhaps, if we face him, he may fly from us; the land is in view; it may not be utterly impossible to reach it. I'll make the attempt; and if I fail, I but cast away a few hours of my life, and cut off as many from my sufferings."

At these words he plunged into the sea, and many others, animated by his example, would have followed him, if I had not, with the utmost difficulty, restrained them. I pointed to their comrade rolling about in the waves, combating in vain against them, hurried forward now almost to touch the shore, then washed back into the deep; disappearing for some minutes, and appearing again only to be seen dashed against the rocks. This shocking object struck them with so much horror, that it abated the desire of their attempt to follow him.

The day being now near closing, we reflected with terror on the last night, and trembled before-hand at that which was to come. The masts and cordage which we had so happily collected together for a raft, the day before, were carried off by the waves, and deprived us of the hope of saving ourselves, even by so poor a shift as this. We had a wretched boat, indeed, but in no sort of condition to weather even the short passage that appeared to lye between us and the land. We had several times examined it with this view, and had as often condemned it, as unfit for service.

However, three of our sailors, either more brave or desperate than the rest, resolved to take their chance in this rotten sieve together. They launched it privately into the sea, without communicating their design to any one else of the crew; and the first knowledge we had of it, was from seeing them, at some distance, in such a situation as made us give them over for lost. We were witnesses, for some time, of their struggles, of the pains they laboured with, and the frequent risks they ran of being swallowed up by the waves, till at last we saw them, contrary to all hope and probability, arrive safe on shore.

How we envied their good fortune! We then, all of us, regretted that we had not made the same desperate experiment, and each of us reproached ourselves for not having foreseen their design. If ever the beholding an happy person was ungrateful to the miserable, it was so then. The signs they made to us, with their extravagant emotions of joy, were but aggravations of our misfortune.

Such a sentiment, I doubt not, must appear horrible to you, as it really seems to shock humanity; yet this detestable sensation is, nevertheless, among the seeds of nature. It disgraces it, I must confess; but it is certainly true, notwithstanding.

Night now deprived us of the sight of our happy comrades; and being constrained to remain still in the same situation, the comparison between their fate and ours only augmented our misery; for our sufferings seemed to increase, as divided among a lesser number. This night was even more terrible to us than the former; the fatigue was the same; and the exhausted state we had been reduced to, by our past labour, left us hardly power to sustain the present.

Ever since our vessel had been overset, we had not been able to get at the inside of her; for we durst not venture to open any part of her deck, for fear of exposing a new passage to the waves to rush in and burst her asunder, so as to deprive us even of that little stay from destruction. We remained, consequently, all this while, without meat or drink to recruit our strength, or support our spirits; and without sleep also, to forget our miseries, for the shortest moment.

The vessel being stranded among a parcel of rocks some fathoms under water, was dashed against them all the while by the force of the waves, so violently, that we felt her whole frame shaken to such a degree, that we expected every minute to have her open and separate, plank by plank, and reduce us to the necessity of the same experiment that our first adventurer had so unsuccessfully attempted before.

The next morning, the 18th of *February*, we beheld the sun rise, which was a sight we had absolutely despaired of, when we saw it setting; and when death, by putting an end to our calamities, would certainly have been a blessing.

Our first emotion, upon finding ourselves still clinging fast to the side of our vessel, was to return our thanksgivings to Heaven, for having preserved us alive, even in such a deplorable situation; and to raise up our suppliant hands in petition to Providence to afford us some means of escaping to the shore.

The wind began to abate, and the various agitations of the sea subsided a little, but only to present another object of commiseration and anxiety to our view of the same kind, but not so great a one as that the day before.

One of our sailors, a remarkable good swimmer, having for some time contemplated the distance to the shore, at length resolved with himself to attempt the passage. "I will try to rejoin my friends on the other side," said he, "and we will endeavour to caulk and staunch the boat, and perhaps we may be happy enough to render it sufficiently capable of taking as many trips backward and forward as may serve to land the remainder of us upon *terra firma*, at last."

"This, at least, is the only resource that misfortune has left in our power to make trial of, and it affords no time for hesitation. Our strength is failing us every moment; let us not wait till it is quite exhausted, but make one effort more with what remains, to extricate ourselves from so horrid and forlorn a situation."

We applauded his proposal, and encouraged him as much as was in our power to put his design in execution, as the only means that were left us to make experiment of, for our lives. We gave him all our handkerchiefs, and what line we could get at, to serve instead of oakum, toward refitting the boat, which he fastened about his waist, and instantly plunged into the sea.

We saw him several times on the point of perishing; our anxious eyes watched narrowly for him; he was our last resource, our sole deliverer; we shared the risks he ran; our fate depended on his; we encouraged him by our voice and gesture.

In fine, after having an hundred times sustained alternate hopes and fears, we had the extacy, at length, to see him reach the shore, after infinite labour and dangers. We fell immediately on our knees to thank Heaven for his escape, and warm beams of joy and hope enlivened and fortified our hearts.

It was now about seven o'clock in the morning; we waited impatiently the moment of our deliverance; we never turned our eyes an instant from the coast; we perceived the four sailors all busy about the boat, and we seconded their labours by our prayers. However, they seemed to proceed but slowly in their work, and we trembled often with fear, lest their pains might be ineffectual.

At length, about three o'clock in the afternoon, their operations ceased, and we saw the boat launched into the sea. It approached our vessel. How is it possible to describe the transport of our crew? It was expressed by shrieks, by tears, and mutual embraces, felicitating one another.

This extacy, this sympathy, was quickly over, and took another turn when it came to the point of embarking. The boat was but small; it could not contain above a third part of our number; we could not attempt to embark all at

once, without sinking it. Every one was sensible of the difficulty, but no one would consent to wait for a second passage; the fear of some accident happening to prevent a return, and the terror of lying another night exposed on the hulk, made every one obstinate for being taking in the first.

Those who had brought the boat to us called out to me, insisting that I should take advantage of this first opportunity, as they feared it would not be in their power to make two returns more; which expression being heard by the rest, excited new outcries, and desperate resolves in each to rush into the skiff, all at once.

I raised my voice above the rest, and entreated silence for a moment. "Your clamours, your violences," said I, "hurt yourselves, and retard your own safety. We are all lost, if you persist in going all together. Attend to reason; obey her dictates, and hope. We are equally involved in the same perils; preference would be unjust in such circumstances; misfortune has abolished all distinction; let us then determine the first passengers by lot; let us submit our fate to this impartial decision; and, to convince those who may be left behind that hope remains still with me, I will stay with them myself, and promise to be the last person that shall quit the vessel."

This resolution surprised and silenced them; they consented to the proposition, and one of the sailors having a parcel of cards in his pocket, they were made use of to determine the chances. Of the eleven of us that were clinging to the vessel, four were taken in, and were delivered safe on land by the other four who had navigated the boat, and who returned immediately to carry away its other complement of four more.

While they were coming toward us, I happened to perceive the stern of our vessel so loosened by the shock of the waves, that by the help of M. Desclau, and my negro, I separated it entirely. This wreck appeared to me as good as a canoe, to carry us ashore. M. Desclau being of the same opinion, we ventured upon it directly, accompanied by the negro; when the other four took boat, and happily arrived at the same point of land, a short time after them.

The inexpressible transport we were sensible of, upon being thus far safely delivered, can only be imagined, as well as the grateful and fervent devotion with which we offered up our hymns to the Creator, with the happiness we felt in reposing our harassed limbs on a firm spot, without apprehending its failing under us, every moment!

The oysters that we found on the coast furnished us with a truly delicious repast; the total privation of food we had sustained for so long before, gave them a peculiar relish. We rejoiced in our present situation, and passed a peaceable

night in a profound sleep, uninterrupted by disagreeable ideas about our further deliverance, which served to recruit our strength and spirits. The next day we awoke also with the same satisfaction; but it was not of a long continuance.

Our mate had fallen sick a few days after we had set sail; and the fatigue of the voyage, together with the constant alarms and terrors we had so long endured, had so much increased his illness, that it was with extreme difficulty he could quit his bed, when the vessel struck aground; and I am still more astonished how he was able to get upon the outside of the ship, when she overset.

The length of time we lay in this sad situation, had almost exhausted his strength; and yet, when the lots were drawn, he happened to be one of the first passengers, and contrived to get into the boat without any manner of assistance. But the fear that had lent him such powers for the instant, rendered him weaker when the danger was over. He was the only one of us who found no rest at land; but he suffered without complaining, as he was tender of disturbing our repose.

When the day-light had roused us from the arms of sleep, I went to inquire how he was, and found him approaching to his last moments. I called upon the rest of our companions to try what help they could afford; but how could any of us assist him, in such a situation and circumstances?

"My hour is come," said he. "I thank Heaven, for preserving my life long enough to see you all, at present, in a place of safety; my anxiety for your deliverance will not now attend me to the grave. O, my friends! may you be able to profit farther of this kindness of Providence! You are not, perhaps, arrived at the end of your difficulties; though I flatter myself that you have already passed the heaviest of them; but I shall share no more of them with you. Pray for me. I expire." He began to rave soon after these words, and drew his last breath before us.

His loss cost us many tears, suspended the joy of our delivery, and afforded us leisure for some melancholy reflections. We were then resting on a desert spot of land, surrounded by the sea; some continent appeared in view, at no great distance, indeed; but how to reach it! Such thoughts added to our affliction, while we were paying the last duty to our departed friend, whom we interred in his clothes, just as he died, having contrived with extreme labour to dig a grave for him in the sand. His name was *Dutronche*.

After the performance of this mournful office, we walked along the shore, and had the fortune to see some of our trunks, several casks of *tafia*, a sort of American liquor, and

many bales of merchandize, thrown by the tide upon the coast, and which had arrived there before us.

But none of these goods, except the liquor, appeared to be of the least consequence to us. We should have preferred a few biscuits, fire-arms to defend us, or provide us with food, but more immediately a good fire to have dried our clothes, and warmed our limbs, quite numbed with cold and wet, to all the rest.

This last distress being now our most pressing evil, made us apply our whole thoughts and diligence to remedy it. We tried the method said to be used by the savages, of kindling a fire, by rubbing two sticks quick and hard against each other; but, whether through awkwardness, or some other impediment, the experiment failed us, and we gave over all further projects of the kind.

The sea, by this time, having become almost calm, I formed a resolution of going aboard our vessel, by means of the shattered boat that had saved us so successfully before. If it should fail me in the passage, said I to myself, the distance is not so great, but that I shall be able to swim back again, while the wind continues its present slumber.

Upon this reflection, I applied to two of the sailors, whom I knew to be good swimmers, to go along with me; but the proposition made them shudder. They had not so soon forgot their sufferings on the side of the vessel; and they trembled at the idea of their being obliged to renew them, if the storm should happen to rise again, before they could return.

I did not press them further; indeed they might have been useless to me; for even should they have ventured, with so much dread about them, and been terrified at the smallest wave; instead of affording me assistance, they might have increased my difficulties, and embarrassed the enterprize I had determined to venture upon.

The very idea of that unlucky ship had filled the minds of the whole crew with so much horror, that many of them endeavoured to dissuade me from my purpose. I rebuked them for their timidity, and ran into the boat with precipitation, without listening to any more of their remonstrances.

I arrived safe at the ship, where the sea, having subsided after the storm, had left some part of the deck uncovered. I moored the boat, and got into the vessel with some difficulty. It was deep in water, and I was obliged sometimes to wade up to my breast. I could not easily find the articles I was in quest of; for every thing had been overturned, and drove out of its place, by the many shocks the vessel had undergone during the storm.

I had the good fortune, however, to lay my hands on a small barrel of gun-powder, about twenty-five pounds weight. It happened to lye in a place above the water;

besides, the cask was staunch enough to have kept the powder dry, as it had been before used for brandy, and afterward applied to this purpose by M. *La Couture*, when he was sitting out for this unhappy voyage. I recovered also six fusils, a parcel of *Indian* handkerchiefs, several blankets, a sack, with between thirty and forty pounds weight of biscuit, and two hatchets, which was all that I was able to carry away.

I returned to the island with my little cargo, and was received with a general shout of joy. The first thing I did, was to get a parcel of dry wood, of which there was sufficient plenty on the coast, and have a large fire kindled; which was a comfortable relief to our little party. With this we employed ourselves in drying the clothes we had on us, with those that had taken wet in our portmanteaus, and the blankets that I had just brought away from the ship.

I then ordered some of the sailors to bring some fresh water from a spring, in order to steep our biscuit in, which had been drenched in the sea. This water was extremely brackish; but as it was not bitter, we corrected it with some of the *tafia*, and rested satisfied with this improvement, because we were ignorant that there was any better to be had in the island; though I have since learned that it abounds with fresh rivers and clear springs.

While some of us were employed in curing the biscuits, and spreading them abroad to dry, others occupied themselves in cleaning the arms, and preparing them for use, which was soon performed. I happened luckily to have some pounds of small shot in my cloak-bag, with some of which I provided two of our best marksmen, along with a proper portion of gun-powder, who returned to us, in about an hour, with half a dozen wild fowl, which abound on that coast.

We had them dressed for supper, and they supplied us with an excellent meal. We then passed the night round about our fire, wrapped up in our dry clothing: we felt ourselves warm and comfortable; and any other accommodation seemed trifling, in comparison with this circumstance.

The next day, the 20th of *February*, we began to consider what we had farther to provide for. The change from bad to better, with the several immediate necessary occupations of the day before, had so engrossed our whole attention, that we had not leisure to reflect on what was hereafter to become of us. We had esteemed ourselves happy when we looked back upon our miraculous escape; but ceased to be so when we looked forward to our future safety. We were cast upon a desert island; we perceived no beaten path to conduct us to any inhabited spot: we had large rivers to cross, and great forests to pass through, where we must run

the hazard of losing our way, every step. Wild beasts were to be apprehended, and the meeting with savages, perhaps, not less dangerous than they; nay, we could not be certain but that there might be both of those enemies in the very island we then stood upon.

We knew that the inhabitants of the *Apalachian* coast forsake the villages, during the winter-season, and betake themselves to the neighbouring islands, where they follow the chase, till about the beginning of *April*, when they again return to the *Continent*, laden with the skins of wild animals they have hunted down, which they exchange with the *Europeans* for arms, ammunition, and brandy.

It might possibly happen that we should be surprised by a troop of those savages, at a time when we were not prepared for them; when they would certainly put us to death, in order to rob us of what effects, though ever so inconsiderable, we might be possessed of. We were afraid also that the casks of *tassa*, that were lying on the coast, might fall into their hands; and, loving that liquor, they might get drunk with it, and meeting with us in such a condition, might massacre us all, without remorse, out of mere stupid brutality. This latter peril, however, we took care to prevent, by immediately staving all the casks, except three, which we hid in a wood, and buried under the sand.

We remained this whole day, and all the next, under such inquietudes and apprehensions as such reflections must naturally inspire. We started at the least noise, in dread of an attack: we dared not separate from one another, for a moment; day and night we slept by turns, and placed centinels fronting the four points of the compass, to guard against a surprise; and some of us, who distrusted the vigilance of those who were on duty, lost their own rest to watch with them. In short, there never was so small a number of persons got together oppressed with so many misfortunes and fears.

The 22d of *February*, in the morning, our whole troop, fatigued with the duty of the night, happened to fall all together into a profound sleep, when we were suddenly roused by a sailor, who happened to be more wakeful than the rest, and cried out, "Awake! Behold the savages! We are lost!" Every one started up at the word; and without consulting any other method of safety, were beginning to fly into the woods; but I prevailed on them to stand their ground, by desiring them to look at the enemy they were afraid of, and to reckon their number, which was only five; two men and three women, armed each with a fusil. "What are you afraid of?" said I. "Is such a party as that so formidable to you? How much inferior is it to ours! We are in a state to dictate to them, if they should have come upon us with

any hostile intentions. Let us wait their approach; for they may to the last degree be useful to us, by extricating us out of our present difficulties."

My companions were struck with shame at their cowardice, and set themselves calmly down by the fire-side, till the savages came up to us, whom we received with every token of friendship we could think of, which was likewise returned on their part. We presented them with some presents out of our trunks; and gave them also some cups of *tafia*, which they seemed to relish extremely. He who seemed to command the rest, spoke to us in bad *Spanish*; and one of our sailors who understood the language, conversed with him, and served as an interpreter between us.

We learned from this savage, that his name was *Antonio*, and that he was a native of *St. Mark's*, in the *Apalachian Mountains*. He had come with his family to pass the winter in an island about three leagues from the one we were in. Some pieces of our wreck, thrown upon the coast where he was, had prompted him to rove about in search of more. His family, then with him, consisted of his mother, sister, wife, and nephew.

We asked him if he would undertake to conduct us to *St. Mark's*, on assurance of his being sufficiently recompenced for his trouble? He stepped aside, and conferred for near an hour, with his family about him, casting an eye every now and then to our arms, our portmanteaus, our blankets, and other commodities.

These appearances alarmed us: we began to suspect our guide; but the open countenance with which he returned to us, and the offer he made to come back to convoy us without delay, dispelled our doubts and apprehensions. He told us that *St. Mark's* was not above ten leagues off; but in this he either deceived us, or was himself mistaken; for it was above twenty-six. But this we were then ignorant of; for had we not, this first breach of truth might have put us more on our guard.

Antonio retired with our presents; and, as he promised to return to us the next day with his canoe, three of our sailors made no difficulty of going along with him. He kept his word, and brought us a present of a bustard, and half a roe-buck. As it was late before we could set out, we deferred our journey till the day following.

On the 24th, we freighted his bark with what part of our effects we could well carry with us, and departed only six of us, at this time, because the canoe could not take in more at once. The whole crew insisted upon my being among the first passengers, being well assured, as they said, that I should not neglect those who might be left behind, but

would compel the savage to return for them, if he should happen to be refractory.

Antonio landed us on the other island, where we met our three companions who had left us two days before. My first attention on our arrival was paid to the confidence reposed in me by five of our crew, who had been left behind in *Dog Island*. I entreated our host to return instantly for them, and the rest of our effects; but he refused to go upon this errand so immediately, being desirous, as he said to me, first to set us down in some place of safety, on *terra firma*, as they call the *Continent*. This I most strenuously opposed: indeed his obstinacy gave me reason to suspect his intentions; but I prevailed on him, at last, to comply with my request, after two entire days solicitation, promises, and threats.

On the 28th, we were all brought together again, which was a vast consolation to us all: while we were asunder, we felt as if a limb was wanting; we considered one another as brothers; we mutually assisted and supported each other; the distinction between captain and sailor was levelled to friends and equals. We were but fourteen now, and considered ourselves as of one family.

As soon as we had been all collected together, I summoned the savage to perform his promise, and conduct us to some place of safety on *terra firma*; but the favourable disposition he had at first shown towards being serviceable to us, appeared now to be slackened; he seemed to fly from our solicitations; all the day was spent in hunting, and he returned not to his hut at night, which he had entirely surrendered to our possession.

We were much at a loss to know what to conjecture about his behaviour. Did he watch for an opportunity to strip us of all our effects, and abscond into the woods? Such a suspicion excited us to so much vigilance, that we thought it impossible for him to take advantage of us.

Some of our companions, wearied at last with such an anxious and uncertain state of our affairs, proposed methods of violence, that would probably have rescued us from many hardships and misfortunes since; their scheme was to slay these five savages, and seize their canoe, to transport us to the *Apalaches*, without further delay.

But I dissuaded them from so desperate a purpose, by representing the danger of its consequences. It was much to be apprehended that the other savages of their nation might soon come to the knowledge of their deaths, and revenge themselves upon us in the same manner. None of us were acquainted with these islands, seas, or harbours; then how should we be able to steer with safety to *terra firma*? Chance, perhaps, might possibly conduct us thither; but what a

madness to embark our lives on the sole hope of such an escape!

We had remained five days in this island, subsisting on what fish and fowl we could provide ourselves with, and husbanding our biscuit with the closest economy; by stinting ourselves to an ounce a day. At last, by lying on the watch for *Antonio*, we happened to intercept him, and by bribes and entreaties prevailed on him to carry us over to the *Continent*.

On the 5th day of *March*, we divided our little party once more; loaded the canoe with the most considerable share of our effects, and embarked, to the number of six; which was composed of *M. La Couture*, his wife, his son, about fifteen years of age (who, by a surprising miracle, had, as well as his mother, been enabled to survive all our hardships and fatigues), *M. Desclau*, myself, and the negro.

Antonio and his wife attended us in the passage, and left the three other savages behind them, with our eight sailors; from whom we did not part without shedding many tears on each side. We were all of us sensible of a certain oppression of heart, and a kind of presentiment, which seemed to forebode our never meeting again.

This expedition, so ardently desired, and readily engaged in, after so much difficulty, happened to be attended with more dismal consequences, even than our shipwreck. We had undergone many severe misfortunes, but worse disasters lay still in wait for us. It is in the following part of my story that you will find I had occasion to exert the utmost efforts of my fortitude; which, however, often failed me on the trial. You will meet with, in these subsequent memoirs, such incredible misfortunes, and circumstances so shocking, that the sole recollection of them makes me tremble still, even while I am merely relating them.

Antonio had assured us, that our voyage would be completed in about two days; we should, therefore, have only laid in provisions sufficient, merely to have served us during the passage, if the late experience of former difficulties and disappointments had not hinted the precaution of taking on board a subsistence for at least double the time. It consisted of between six and seven pounds of biscuit, with some quarters of broiled bear and roe-buck.

Such a precaution was prudent, but not sufficient: for our passage was much longer than we had been made to imagine. *Antonio*, after about three leagues sailing, stopt at an island, where he obliged us to stay till the next day, when he did not make greater expedition than before. I took notice that, instead of making toward the *Continent*, he carried us from one island to another, without any manner of purpose that we could conceive. This extraordinary

manner of proceeding rendered me extremely uneasy, and augmented the distrust which his former conduct had inspired me with.

Seven days were loitered away in these trips; our provisions were exhausted; and we had nothing to subsist on, except a few oysters that we met with on some of the coasts, and two or three wild fowls that the savages afforded us now and then. Nor were we, after all, brought even within a view of the *Continent*; though, overpowered with fatigue, weakened by the bad and scanty sustenance we had been able to provide ourselves with, we became now so extremely feeble, that we were hardly able to row the boat in turns.

The miserable situation to which we were at last reduced, made such an impression on my mind, as I had never felt before. My patience being quite exhausted by the continuance of his perverseness, I became seized with such a fit of rage and violence as was not any part of my usual character. *Antonio* appeared plainly to be a treacherous villain, who meant to let us perish piece-meal; and self-defence justified any measure that might be necessary toward extricating us from our danger. These reflections agitated my mind in the middle of the night. I took *M. Desclau* and *La Couture* apart, to consult with on this emergency.

It surprised me, even then, how I could be capable of arguing so warmly for the putting *Antonio* to death, when it was I alone who had stood forth in his defence, on a former occasion, against our whole crew. I am not naturally cruel, but misfortunes had rendered me outrageous enough, at that instant, both to propose and commit a murder. The situation I was in must plead my excuse, and the event has since justified my apprehensions and resolve.

M. Desclau and *La Couture* judged differently of this affair; they repeated to me the same arguments I had before made use of, when I opposed the crew upon the very same occasion. I was not convinced; but complied, however, with their remonstrances, and passed the remainder of the night without being able to frame any other scheme for our preservation.

The next day, the 12th of *March*, we sailed again, little more than two leagues, and landed, as usual, on some other island; where, overcome with misery and fatigue, and requiring rest, we each of us wrapped ourselves up in our blankets, as usual, and lay down before a large fire. We gave ourselves up to sleep with the most perfect acquiescence, as the time we passed in forgetting our existence was certainly so many anxious moments subtracted from our miseries.

My slumber was but short; my inquietudes rendered me wretched, and afforded me but a very broken rest from the

dismal apprehensions which presented themselves to my imagination. I will not carry it so far as to say that they amounted to forebodings, as this, perhaps, may be one of the superstitions that the more enlightened philosophy has abolished, among other prejudices of the same kind. I pretend not therefore to insist upon this notion here; I speak only of what I have myself experienced.

I imagined, while I was in a doze, that I was standing on the strand, and perceived the savage and his wife sailing away in his canoe: my mind was so strongly impressed by this vision, that I took for a real fact what had been just transacted before my eyes; and consequently sent forth in my sleep so piercing an exclamation, as roused all my companions, who also awakened me by calling out to know what new alarm had, just at that moment, affected me.

I told them what it was; they made a jest of my terrors; and their reasoning and raillery, with my being too far from the coast to have seen the transaction, if it had been one, soon brought me to conclude that I had been only dreaming; and I then joined with the rest, to laugh at my own weakness.

Upon this, they all composed themselves again to sleep, and I fell also into a profound slumber, in which I continued 'till about midnight, when I was startled out of it, as before, by the very same idea I have just related to you. My apprehensions became now so strong, that I could not avoid going immediately down to the shore, either to quiet or confirm my fears.

I rose alone, without disturbing any one, and walked away, with feeble and staggering steps, to the sea-side. The sky was clear, and the moon shone bright enough to afford me a distinct view of the whole coast. I looked for the canoe, but could not find it; I searched every cranny for it, but in vain. I called to the savage several times, but received no answer, except from my companions, who, awakened by my voice, came all running toward me.

There was no occasion to inform them of our misfortune; they appeared frantic with despair, and lamented most bitterly at having restrained my hand from preventing that act of perfidy the evening before. But how useless are reflections or regrets, after the evil is become irreparable!

Behold us now a second time left on a desert island, without resource, without food, and without arms to procure subsistence. We had no clothes, except what were on our backs, and our blankets. Our fusils, and all our other effects, had been stowed aboard the boat. Even our swords, which we had usually worn as defence against the wild beasts and savages we had been in constant dread of, had been carelessly left behind us the day before. In short, we remained

without any sort of weapon, offensive or defensive, except a blunt knife that I happened to have in my pocket.

This island produced neither root or fruit, of any kind, to sustain us; nor did that shore afford either oysters, or any other sort of shell-fish. What a shocking situation! What hope, what possibility, even was left us now? And what could avail the noblest fortitude in such circumstances of despair?

As soon as the day appeared, we rolled our blankets about us, now the only goods or effects we possessed in the world, and returned to the strand, hoping to find some sort of fish there to satisfy our hunger. Our searches were in vain; we walked for near two hours about the land, without discovering any thing that could serve us for food, or even a drop of fresh water.

We came, at length, to the end of this barren island, from whence we could see another, that was separated from ours by a strait about half a quarter of a league over; we had passed a day and a night there before with the savage, and remembered that it had good water, and excellent shell-fish, on its coast. How much did we regret that we had not been deserted on that spot, instead of where we now were! We could have at least subsisted there. This reflection increased our misery; we sat down on the sand, regarding with a greedy eye the island before us, and deploring the sterility of our own.

Pressed by hunger, we deliberated whether we ought not to hazard the crossing that arm of the sea which divided the two islands; we must expect death if we did not attempt it. Our choice was made without hesitation; we resolved to venture; but, on going to execute our scheme, we were stopped by a difficulty we had not yet thought of.

Madame *La Couture* and her son were with us; and how could they follow us? This passage was not dreadful to men accustomed to the water; but a woman, and so young a dad, could not undertake it without danger. Already we saw *M. La Couture* uneasy, measuring the channel with his eyes, and thinking on the means to conduct with safety persons so dear to him. Humanity would not permit us to leave them behind; so we resolved to relieve each other, successively, in supporting them both; while my negro, who was the shortest of the company, marched first, to sound the bottom, and point out to us where we might best attempt to ford it.

I took the hand of Mad. *La Couture*; *M. Desclau* took that of the young man. *M. La Couture* made two parcels of part of our clothes that we had put off, placed one on the head of my slave, and carried the other himself. Thus we set out, at last; fortunately, the bottom was tolerably firm and

even; the water, in the deepest part, came no higher than our stomachs: we marched on slowly, and reached the opposite shore, at length, in safety. Mad. *La Couture*, during this dangerous passage, showed a courage and strength that surprised me; she appeared the same in every situation; nor could it be said that her company was either useless, or troublesome to us. We happily arrived at this island, where we hoped to find some nourishment; but experienced a new distress that was near proving fatal to us. We had been an hour and a half in the water, and an extreme coldness seized us on quitting it. To make a fire, either to dry or warm us, was now impossible, as there was not a flint to be found, in this, or any other of these isles that we had wandered over.

Though we were almost spent with fatigue and famine, exercise was our only resource; we continued, therefore, to walk for several hours, searching for oysters, which we devoured as fast as we could. After having thus satisfied the impatient calls of hunger, we had the precaution to gather a few, as a reserve; and the sun casting now a considerable heat, served to dry our wet clothes, and permitted us to rest, for some time. The air was extremely sharp during the night, and often obliged us to rise and walk, to prevent its dangerous effects.

The next day, a wind at south-east increased the heat of the sun; we renewed our search after shell-fish, along the beach; but the tide was not out, and there was no fish to be come at; so that we were obliged to content ourselves with the small provision that we had laid by the preceding evening. We had afterward occasion to observe, that the tide never ebbed while the southerly winds continued. We acquired this knowledge, at our own expence, as by this means we were frequently in want of food. We sought among the herbs and roots for a supply, but could discover nothing eatable, except some wild sorrel.

I will not enter into a tedious detail of all that passed in the first ten days after *Antonio* had abandoned us; we suffered exceedingly from cold by night, and not seldom from famine; we passed whole days in bewailing our misfortunes, and in prayer to the Almighty, that he would deign to put an end to them.

We had now reached the 22d of *March*, as nearly as we could guess, when, in the midst of our usual lamentations, and anxious meditations on the means of quitting our wretched abode, we recollected, that in a neighbouring island, which we had happened to touch at with the vile *Indian*, there lay on the shore the remains of an old canoe, which we imagined we might repair well enough to be able to carry us over to the *Continent*.

This flattering idea was readily embraced; we delivered ourselves up to joy, as if we were already certain of realizing our wishes. M. Desclau, M. La Couture, and I, consulted together about the means of getting to the place where this old shattered boat lay. We made an observation to the eastward, as well as we could, and, computing how far distant we then were from that coast, we concluded it to be between four and five leagues off. In reality we were not deceived: but we had many difficulties to encounter in this expedition; for there were several rivers, and an arm of the sea, to cross. However, these obstacles did not discourage us. We determined to attempt the enterprise, at least, upon this persuasion, that resolution and perseverance are a match for any undertaking, which is not impossible in nature.

We resolved to set out the same day, and not to take Mad. La Couture, or her son with us, as they would only retard our design; neither could they support, like us, the labour and fatigue of it: besides, it was probable that the waters we had to pass might be so deep as to oblige us to swim, which they were incapable of doing. Mad. La Couture, convinced by these reasons, consented to wait our return, with her son. I left my negro behind, to attend them, and we departed, after promising to return, either with or without the canoe, as soon as possible.

The project we had now undertaken, was our last hope and resource; we talked of it during our journey, as of a most probable scheme. This re-animated our spirits, recruited our strength, and rendered the way less tedious.

In every state of life, and in all the circumstances of it, mankind indulge themselves in chimeras, and often quit substances for shadows. But it is only to the wretched that such illusions become a real blessing: while their imaginations are amused, their sorrows are relieved, and for a time forgotten. Between three and four hours walking brought us to the utmost extremity of our land, without being forced to pass any river larger than what we could term a brook, in Europe; but now a sort of canal, about a quarter of a league broad, presented itself to our view, and arrested our course.

We must hazard the crossing this arm of the sea, or resign our hopes. This reflection sustained our resolution; and an hour's rest recovered us a little; we needed all our strength, as we were ignorant whether this water was everywhere fordable, and trembled lest the part which might have required our swimming should exceed the small degree of force we might then be left possessed of. This idea held us for some time in suspense; at length, resolving to risk every thing, we kneeled, and addressed a short, but fervent prayer

to God, for his support under this trial. Relying, therefore, on his protection, the moment we had ended our ejaculations, we all rushed into the water.

The bottom was very unequal, and for some time we waded in the uncertain course of ascending and descending, when suddenly we lost the ground, and plunged quite out of our depth. As we were not above an hundred yards from land, this unlucky circumstance dismayed us a good deal, and almost determined us to return back: however, we continued still to press forward, and, after a few strokes, had the good fortune to recover our footing again; for we had only fallen into a hole, which might have been avoided by taking a round of ten or twelve paces, the water not being in any place higher than our chins; and we reached the opposite coast without any other accident or misadventure.

Quite overpowered by fatigue, we sunk down on the strand, unable to advance one step farther. The day, fortunately for us, was perfectly serene, the sun shone bright, and darted his rays full upon us, which dried our clothes, and defended us from the cold, which would have else been insupportable.

A few shell-fish and some fresh-water, that we were lucky enough to find as soon as we could move about, helped to restore our strength a little; and, after a short search, we discovered the canoe. We examined it with eager attention; but the view did not serve to encourage us; it appeared impossible, from the state it was then in, ever to be made useful to us; but we did not, however, so easily resign the fond hope which had first induced us to undergo so much fatigue and peril on the prospect. It would have been a dreadful circumstance to us to have found ourselves deceived all at once. We turned it, therefore, on every side; we considered every part, and, upon a thorough inspection, I concluded that all our efforts would be in vain.

M. Desfau and M. La Couture were of a different opinion; and I acquiesced in their reasoning. We hazarded nothing by endeavouring to repair it; for it was only time and trouble thrown away, if we did not succeed. Now we were well accustomed to labour; and as to time, we had no other way of employing it; the work would amuse us while we were occupied about it, and help to sustain our small remains of hope. These considerations were matters of no inconsiderable importance, in a situation so wretched and forlorn as ours.

We began, then, directly, to gather a parcel of osiers, and a sort of tough compacted moss, that is called *Spanish beard*, that grows generally on the bark of the trees in those islands; which we made use of for casing and caulking our leaky vessel. In this operation we continued to labour, till

the more immediate calls of hunger obliged us to seek everywhere for food, of which we happily found a sufficient quantity for that time.

The day was now beginning to close, and a sharp wind arose, which threatened us with a night severely cold; we lamented bitterly the not having it in our power to relieve ourselves with a fire; the smallest flint would have been to us, then, a greater treasure than the largest diamond.

At that instant I happened luckily to recollect that the savage who had so basely betrayed us, had changed the flint of his gun the day that we rested in this island. The remembrance of this circumstance revived a gleam of hope in my desponding mind. I immediately started up, with an eagerness that surprised my companions. I left them, without speaking a word; and ran hastily toward that side of the shore where *Antonio* had landed us.

It was at no great distance, and I soon found the place where we had passed that night, and where there still remained the cinders of our fire. I searched carefully for the spot on which the *Indian* had changed his flint and cast away the old one.

There was not a crevice but I examined with the most scrupulous attention, and not a blade of grass but I turned up, to see if this precious stone was concealed beneath it.

I spent a full quarter of an hour in this search; night began to fall, and I had now only the faint and uncertain glimmering of the twilight to assist me, by which it was almost impossible to have discerned so small an object. I then gave up all hopes, and was preparing to return to my companions, more dispirited and afflicted than I was at leaving them, when I felt under my naked foot (for I had thrown aside my shoes, as being of no farther use to me) some hard substance. I stooped suddenly, with a secret shuddering, an anxious state of mind between hope and fear. I stooped down, and, with a trembling hand, took it from under my foot, which I did not dare to move, for fear of missing what I was in search of. It was, in short, the very flint I had been so long in quest of.

The joy I felt on this occasion must, doubtless, appear amazing to you; and those who have never been in my circumstances, will look on this lucky prize but as a common pebble. O, my friend! May you ever remain a stranger to such extreme necessity as gives the highest value and importance to the most worthless things in nature!

Transported with extacy, I flew to my companions! "Good news! good news!" I cried out, as far as they could hear me. "I have found it! I have found it!" They ran toward me, at the sound of my exclamations, and inquired into the meaning of them. I showed them the flint,

and desired them immediately to gather up some dry wood. I took my knife, the only iron instrument which remained in our possession. I tore my ruffles for tinder; and, at last, contrived to light up a large fire, which defended us against the damps of the night, and warmed and relieved our wearied limbs.

How delicious did this night appear to us, compared to the foregoing ones! With what luxury did we stretch ourselves before the fire! How sweet and refreshing were our slumbers, in which we lay dissolved till the rays of the rising sun, beaming forcibly upon our heads, awakened us!

It is unnecessary to tell you with what a fond solicitude I watched and guarded the precious talisman which had redeemed us from destruction. I would scarcely part with it, for a minute, even to those who were equally interested in its preservation, but kept it generally wrapt up in two handkerchiefs, which I tied about my neck.

We passed the second day, after our arrival in this island, in continuing our labours toward repairing the skiff, and caulked it with one of our coverlets or blankets, which we sacrificed to that purpose; but had scarcely finished our work, when the day closed upon us; and we passed this second night in the flattering hopes of not finding our trouble useless.

The desire of trying the experiment caused us to awake early the next morning, eager to launch our canoe. But, alas! after all our endeavours, we had not yet rendered it fit for service, at least in the opinion of M. Desclau and me; but M. La Couture differed from us, and said he would float it over to the island where he had left his wife and son, in hopes of being able to staunch it better, by their assistance.

M. Desclau and I chose rather to return to the island where the savage had left us, and where our eight sailors remained, in the hopes of finding him there, and forcing him to conduct us to the *Apalaches*, or perishing in the attempt. We promised not to abandon M. La Couture, if we succeeded; and to send him immediate succours, or rejoin him, if we should happen to fail in our design.

We then took leave of him, and gained the other extremity of the island, after a most useless fatigue; for we could discover no fordable passage, in a canal of a league over, which divided us from the point we were bound to; and this was too large a stretch to undertake the crossing of, by swimming only. We, therefore, returned again to the spot from whence we had set out; but missed M. La Couture, who had already carried over his skiff to the place where his wife and son had been left behind.

We then set out, in order to follow him; but did not reach the border of the canal we were to cross, till it was

almost night: we, therefore, waited till the next morning, before we would venture to pass it, as the fatigues of the day had rendered us too feeble to attempt it then, with safety. The alarms we had suffered the first time, even in the day, presented themselves to our imaginations anew; and we did not think proper to expose ourselves to the same again in the dark.

The next morning we waded through the canal with as good success, and less risk, than we had done before. We found Mad. *La Couture* and her son, who had passed a most wretched and anxious time of it in our absence; we met also M. *La Couture* with her, who had returned the night before, with the rotten canoe that he had, however, contrived to ferry over, but not without its having been rendered almost as bad as before, even in so short a voyage. The labour we had employed about it, was quite thrown away, as there was not solid stuff enough to work upon; so that all its parts were now become loose and leaky again.

This ill success quite sunk our spirits, and we resigned all further hope in that project, for the future, and passed the remainder of that day in rest. The recovery of the flint was an happy circumstance for poor Mad. *La Couture* and her son, who had been perishing so long for want of a fire. We lighted up one immediately, which re-animated their harassed spirits with warmth and comfort.

Oysters and vegetables had hitherto been our only sustenance, and even of such provision we had not always a sufficient quantity; but this day Providence furnished us with some food of a better kind. I had separated from my company, to take a solitary walk along the coast; and the irksome reflections which occupied my mind, prevented me from observing that I had strayed to a considerable distance; and I continued still ruminating, when a dead roe-buck, that happened to lie in my way, roused my attention.

I examined it, turned it, and found that it was still fresh. It appeared to have been wounded, and to have fled from the hunter, across the water, to this spot, where its loss of blood had put an end to its life. I looked upon this occurrence as a present from Heaven; and raising it with difficulty on my shoulders, returned back to my friends, whom I was not able to come up with, till after the fatigue of above an hour's march.

They were most joyfully surprised at the success of my adventure, and most gratefully returned their thanks to Providence for this new relief. We stood in need of a more substantial nourishment than we had been for some time supplied with, and we accordingly made preparations for a better repast than we had ever tasted since the commencement of our misfortunes.

We assisted in preparing the animal for food, by skinning and cutting it into quarters, and then broiled as much of it as served us for a plentiful meal; after which we lay down round our fire, and partook of a night's rest together.

On the following day, which was, as near as I can guess, the 26th of *March*, the impatient wish we had to get away from this island, made us recur again to our periagua, or canoe; to which we returned with renewed ardour, but were still obliged to quit it as often with the most poignant regret. The ill success of former trials did not discourage us from subsequent attempts; we continued to flatter ourselves that we should succeed better on returning to the work again, by profiting of the experience that our very disappointments might have afforded us, with regard either to the method or materials we had applied before toward launching it.

But we had no change of stuff to supply, no more solid substance to work upon. However our labour was still renewed, without advancing one step in our operations; and after three entire days severe fatigue thrown away upon this occupation, and the sacrificing two more blankets, in endeavouring to caulk this skiff, we found at length how fruitless had been all our pains to render it serviceable; for before it had been a quarter of an hour in the water, we perceived it leaking on all sides.

This disappointment to our last hopes shocked us extremely, and we found it absolutely impossible to remedy it. However, despairing of any other means of extricating ourselves from our present deplorable state, and panting to reach the *Continent*, we shut our eyes upon the danger; and having only about two leagues to cross over, we resolved at last to hazard the attempt in this sieve.

But then it must have been madness to venture on the passage, all at the same time. This would have sunk the boat on our first setting out. We determined, therefore, that only three of us should try the experiment this trip; namely, *M. La Couture*, *M. Desclau*, and I. That two of us should row, while the other was to be indefatigable in lading out the water that might leak in, with his hat.

This expedient we knew would lessen, though not annihilate our danger; but we resolved, notwithstanding, to take our choice, and deliver ourselves over into the hands of Providence.

This resolution being taken, we deferred the execution of it till the next day, and spent the remainder of this, in endeavouring to persuade *Mad. La Couture* to stay where she then was, with her son, and my negro, till we could send them a stronger boat, which might easily be procured as soon as we should reach the *Continent*.

It was with difficulty we could reconcile her to this scheme, and she yielded, at length, with infinite reluctance. In order to obtain her consent, I left my flint and knife with her son; though, I must confess, it was with much regret I ventured these two instruments out of my hands, which had been so extremely serviceable to us all, and which I might chance to stand in need of myself, if I should be a second time shipwrecked in the leaky canoe, and cast upon some desert shore; but it was necessary that she should be left with whatever comforts or conveniences we could spare.

When we had quieted her apprehensions, and silenced her lamentations, we gathered together what provisions we could, both for her accommodation, and our own, during the passage; and on the 29th of *March*, at sun-rise, we set our canoe afloat, said our prayers, and embarked.

But we felt the plank we stood upon bend under our feet; our weight sunk the boat too low for safety, and we soon perceived the water beginning to spring through its sides. These appearances deprived me of all manner of hope; a secret trembling shook my whole frame, and a profound terror seized me, which I found it impossible to conquer.

I already saw death before my eyes, and resolved not to venture upon the passage; but hastily stepping on shore: "No, my friends;" cried I, to *La Couture* and *Desclau*, "we must not undertake this voyage; before we can advance a quarter of a league, the boat will go to the bottom, and leave us in the midst of an unknown ocean, and far from any land where we can hope for refuge. Let us remain where we are at present, and wait with resignation the farther care and assistance of that kind Providence which has hitherto preserved us. Let us not throw ourselves into the arms of death, nor challenge his stroke before our time. Heaven will, perhaps, take pity on our sufferings, and our patience and submission may at length obtain its final relief."

M. *La Couture* pressed me to return, and made a jest of my apprehensions. My solicitations and arguments were to him of no effect; he still persisted in his purpose to hazard the voyage, and M. *Desclau* departed along with him.

I remained on the strand, looking after them, while they continued in sight. I saw them proceed with great difficulty, and turn round a little island that was not far from our own, which soon prevented me from seeing them any longer.

I make no doubt but they must have perished then, as I have never received any account of them since; and I believe that the boat could have subsisted but so short a time above water, that had it not been for the island which intervened, and concealed them from my sight, I might, perhaps, have had the shock of seeing the vessel sink before my

eyes, and my unfortunate friends buried along with it in the waves.

The condition of the periagua, as already represented, is a presumption of this event, equal almost to a conviction; and some further circumstances that have occurred to my knowledge since, and of which I shall hereafter speak, have confirmed me in the certainty of their loss.

I returned to Mad. *La Couture*, who very little expected to see any of us so soon, if ever; she had not accompanied us to the boat; for as her heart had not consented to our risk, she could not have borne the sight of our departure. I found her sitting by the fire, with her back turned to the sea, weeping bitterly, and lamenting the misery of her hopeless situation.

My presence surprised and startled her. "You are not yet gone," said she. "Ah! what has prevented you? Believing your departure certain, I was endeavouring to reconcile myself to our separation, and this afflicting reflection was beginning to affect me less, through the hope that you would not neglect me. But I see you are returned again, and yet cannot rejoice, as it can only serve to renew the pangs of a second parting."

I strove to avoid giving her more lively sensations of sorrow, by not telling her the reason of my coming back, or hinting my fears about the unhappy adventurers I had left behind, of whom one was her husband. I concealed the danger to which they had exposed themselves, and pretended only, that upon our apprehending three passengers to be too great a weight for the boat, I had made my choice of staying with her, 'till there should return some stouter vessel that might be able to carry us all together over to the *Continent*.

I added, as I still considered her to be an object of the utmost compassion, that M. *La Couture* being charmed with my determination, and assured that he was to leave a sincere friend behind, to comfort and take care of his wife and child, had proceeded on the voyage with better spirits and satisfaction; and that I had promised him to be active in my services and assistance to both of them.

Mad. *La Couture* returned me thanks; almost on her knees; my staying with her seemed to console her extremely, and to raise a sort of confidence in her mind, that Providence would unite us soon, all happily again.

We remained now but four persons in the whole island, and I had the care alone of providing for the safety and subsistence of us all. Mad. *La Couture* and her son were too weak and helpless to afford me much assistance, so that the negro was the only one who could be of any material service to me; and he was but a sort of organized machine,

whose legs and arms alone were useful ; he had neither sense nor forecast, and was almost as much an incumbrance on me, as the others ; as he could give me no manner of help, but where mere manual labour was required.

For some days after I had returned to them, the winds continued at south and south-east, which unhappily prevented us, as I before observed, from being able to procure any subsistence, from oysters or other shell-fish ; so that we were reduced to support ourselves solely on a sort of wild sorrel we picked up on the island, which afforded us but a wretched sustenance, and weakened our stomachs, without satisfying them.

The roe-buck that I had so luckily met with, had been totally devoured, before our companions left us ; and the same good fortune did not occur again.

Six days had passed since the departure of M. *La Couture* and *Desclau* ; sometimes I had slight hopes that we might possibly hear from, or see them return to our succour ; but then again, my spirits soon sunk into despondency, and even Mad. *La Couture* began at length to give them over for lost, and conclude that they must have perished at sea.

I could not pretend any longer to calm her fears and sollicitudes, who had myself so much stronger reasons than she to be confirmed in the same opinion ; besides, the anxieties I had suffered, with the heaviness of my misfortunes, had soured my temper, and given me such a weariness and disgust, that I was, at length, rendered incapable of disguising my sentiments, or preserving any further management of them, with regard to others.

Tired to the last degree with my wretched situation, and knowing, to a sad certainty, that I had no one but myself now to expect any relief from, toward extricating us out of our deplorable circumstances, a thought occurred strongly to my mind, one morning, that I might possibly be able to collect sufficient materials together, on the island, capable of floating us over, some calm day or other, to the *Continent*.

This idea operated in so lively a manner on my imagination, that I regretted my not thinking of it before the departure of my poor friends. They could have assisted me in such an undertaking, with better effect than in all the labour we had thrown away together, or rather worse employed, upon the fatal canoe. I was resolved, therefore, to set about this work, without a moment's farther loss of time, while I preserved sufficient strength of body and mind to execute it.

I instantly communicated my purpose to Mad. *La Couture*, who seemed transported at the thought, and who, immediately surmounting the natural feebleness of her sex, which

her misfortunes had augmented, set her hand to the business with amazing vigour and spirit.

We all of us engaged in the work, without the least manner of delay. I employed the young man in stripping a parcel of trees of their bark, directing him to those which I thought might answer the purpose best, while his mother, the negro, and I, assisted one another in dragging them down to the sea-side, with extreme labour, as our strength had been considerably impaired by fasting, watching, and former fatigue. At every five or six steps of the way, we were obliged to halt and lay ourselves down to rest; and, as soon as we had recovered breath, returned to our work, with a resolution and perseverance that nothing but the ardour of redeeming ourselves from this horrid exile could have inspired and supported.

We were almost exhausted by the time that the falling of night would otherwise have compelled us to lay aside our labour; and had the pleasure, on our return to the fire-side, to find a large quantity of oysters, mussels, cockles, and other shell-fish, that the young *La Couture* had gathered, at low-water, upon the changing of the wind, which happened that evening.

Such kind of food is deemed unwholesome, and of bad digestion, eaten raw; therefore we broiled them on our charcoal, which was the first time we had ever taken this precaution, and we found it agree better with our stomachs. These fish lose all their dangerous qualities by cookery, becoming lighter, and more nourishing, but are less grateful to the palate: and we had nothing to season them with: we had no salt, nor knew we how to make any: the float, which engaged our whole attention, did not permit us leisure enough to set about such a manufacture. We were willing to forego that, or any other commodity, rather than be confined for life in so forlorn a situation.

The next morning, we set ourselves to our business again; the tough rinds of those trees which I had directed *La Couture* to strip, served us to bind the timber together; but, as we did not think those ligatures strong enough to trust to, on our voyage, I made Mad. *La Couture* cut up one of our blankets into strings for the purpose. My negro brought me several pieces of smaller and more pliant branches, with which we interwove the grosser timber, and completed the raft about noon. I then set up a stick in the middle of it, which I fastened as well as I could, to serve for a mast, to which I tied a blanket, by way of sail; and then broke up our stockings, to form the thread into cordage, to shift it, as the wind might vary.

These lesser matters employed us for the rest of that day,

when we finished the work, even to the fixing a small piece of timber behind, by way of rudder.

Being determined to set out the next morning at break of day, we employed ourselves, even as late as it then was, in making a provision of some oysters and vegetables, of which we were lucky enough to collect a sufficient quantity to serve us at sea, and deposited them on the raft, which we had moored on the strand, waiting for the return of the tide, to set it afloat. The ebb generally commenced early in the morning, and we purposed retiring along with it.

In expectation of this happy minute, we lay down to repose ourselves before our fire, but slept very little; for there arose a dreadful storm in the middle of the night: the heavy rain, quick flashes of lightning, and loud thunder, soon roused us from our slumbers. The wind was high, and the waves grew boisterous.

This made us tremble for the safety of our raft, our sole *palladium*; and the roaring of the elements having ceased, just at the dawn of day, we all ran down to the shore, to see how it had withstood the hurricane. But, alas! it was no more! The waves had hurried it from its mooring, tore it to pieces, and buried it in the sea, along with our whole stock of provisions for the voyage. Our courage abandoned us all, upon this extremity of ill fortune, and we spent the whole day in condoling with each other, and lamenting the severity of our fate, without bestowing one thought toward attempting any future relief, or even attending to the more immediate support of nature.

A new affliction was now added to our other miseries. Since the commencement of our misfortunes, none of us had fallen ill; our health had been happily still preserved throughout all our difficulties; and we suffered no other inconveniences, except want and weakness. My negro, while we were consoling one another upon our present distress, had gone to search the border of the sea for some kind of sustenance, which, under the pressure of our present despondency, we had wholly neglected.

The tide was in, and he could not get at any sort of shell-fish; but happening to meet with the head and skin of a porpoise, he brought them to us in a sort of triumph. It was almost come to a state of putrefaction; but hunger has no delicacy; so having broiled it, our craving stomachs greedily devoured every morsel of that food, which was so offensive both to our sight and smell.

About an hour after we had swallowed this meal, we were all of us seized with a most deadly sickness; our stomachs had been overcharged, and we could not contrive how to free them from this irksome incumbrance. We had recourse to water, of which luckily there was plenty in the island,

and drank large draughts of it; but this only eased us by degrees, as we had no method of making it warm. Our disorder turned to a dysentery, which continued severely on us all for about five days.

The design of constructing another float had occurred to me, the moment that I saw the former had been destroyed; but grief, disappointment, and fatigue, had put it out of my power to undertake such a work, on the first day; and we were none of us in a condition to set about it while our disorder continued; and, even after it had ceased, we were left in too weak a state to attempt it.

However, the dread of the same, or some other disease attacking us again, determined me to apply what little strength remained among us, toward this so necessary purpose. It had been madness to have waited till our powers might have been so totally exhausted, as to disable us entirely from executing the project. I exhorted Mad. *La Couture* to second me; she made an effort, as well as myself, and we all applied ourselves to the work, except her son, who continued still extremely ill.

It was now about the 11th of *April*, and we laboured at this operation, without intermission, and with as much exertion of ourselves as the enfeebled state of body we were reduced to would permit, and had the pleasure to see it completely finished by the 15th of the same month, at night.

We suffered double the fatigue in framing this raft that we had undergone with the other; for the timber we were obliged to make use of on this occasion lay at a greater distance from the shore, as what was to be got nearer had been all worked up in the former one; so that the difficulty of rolling the trees to the sea-side must have been unsurmountable in our then state of weakness, if hope and despair both had not united together, for the first time, to inspire the strength of our bodies with the spirit of our minds.

At every pause of labour we trembled, lest bad weather should again overtake us, and interrupt our progress, or destroy the work as soon as it might be finished. And yet it was impossible to use any further precaution; it must be constructed on the beach, and as near the sea as could be, that the flowing of the tide might set it afloat, as all our united strength would not have been able to launch it of ourselves. The slightest cloud that appeared, or the least breeze that blew, struck us with a panic, and made us foresee a tempest; and our fears tempted us often to quit the work, lest all our labour should be a second time employed in vain.

We returned to it again, but without spirit, and labouring still under the utmost anxiety; for as we had sacrificed to this project the rest of our blankets and stockings, if a

storm should disappoint our hopes, as it had done already, we should have had neither comfort or resource left us then; but must have resigned ourselves up, without farther exertion, to destruction.

During the entire night of the 15th, our fears ceased not for a single moment; even the serenity of the evening could not inspire us with confidence. We never thought of sleep, but spent the time in collecting together all the provisions we could, of fish, roots, and vegetables; and depositing them on our raft, as before, resolved to set out as soon as day-light appeared, if we should be so happy as to escape a renewal of the same misfortune and disappointment which we had so severely experienced before.

The morning returned at length, and opened with all favourable omens. I went to awaken young *La Couture*, to embark with us. He was the only one of us whose weakness and fatigue, having overcome his anxiety, had induced to sleep. I called him, but he made no reply: I took hold of his hand, to shake him from his slumber, but found him cold as marble, without movement or sensation. I concluded him to be dead for some minutes; but feeling his naked breast, I perceived his heart was still beating, though with a feeble pulse.

Our fire was reduced to the last cinder; for, being in hopes of quitting the island every moment, and having no farther occasion for it, we took no care to renew it. I ordered the negro to put on fresh fuel, while I exerted myself in rubbing the young man's hands, legs, and arms.

Mad. *La Couture* came to us, just at that instant; but I shall not attempt to describe her situation, her grief, and exclamations, on the sight of her son. She fell into a swoon, by his side, which I thought would put an end to her life. Occupied so materially about the son, what assistance could I afford to the mother? I, however, divided my cares between them, as she appeared to stand in almost equal need of them.

The negro having made a good fire, I ordered him to raise up the young man before it, and to warm him by degrees; while, by shaking the mother, and sprinkling cold water on her face, I brought her at last to her senses. I said every thing in my power to comfort and give her hopes; but she remained still inconsolable, and soon grew as sick as if she had been at sea.

Her son began, at length, to recover; the cold had overpowered him in the night, which, joined to the weak habit he had been before reduced to by sickness and labour, had thrown him into a state of lethargy, which must certainly have ended in death, if I had not providentially come, just at that instant, to his relief.

What a situation was mine in these circumstances! Abandoned on a desert island, in want of every support and assistance, encumbered with two helpless persons, whom I could neither relieve nor forsake, and destitute of all manner of remedies, either for their weakness or disorder, having only a few oysters, some decayed roots and vegetables, and a little cold water to supply them with!

And at what a critical time were we reduced to these unhappy circumstances!—at the very moment when our hopes were highest of extricating ourselves from our wretched condition of existence, and of flying to some happy spot of the earth, where we might expect to have met with the solace and comforts of humanity.

There was no thinking of setting out on our voyage this day; both the mother and son were too weak and ill to attempt it, as their deaths appeared to be the immediate consequence. To leave them behind, was a thought which shocked my mind, and which my heart was therefore incapable of; and yet to abide with them, appeared to be only to expose myself to further miseries and disappointments, which could finally terminate in no other way but death alone, by hazarding the destruction of this second raft, and seeing it wrecked at sea before my eyes.

This last idea, which my former experience had given me so strong an apprehension of, distracted my mind, and perplexed my resolves to such a degree, as no reason could combat, nor resolution conquer; and every thought, scheme, or reflection, only seemed to increase the difficulties of my purposes.

But this hesitation did not disturb me long. I determined to fulfil the obligations of humanity, and submitted my fate, at length, to all the hazards that must necessarily attend my staying with these unhappy objects. I surrendered myself up a victim on the altar of compassion, and put my trust in the Great Author of Benevolence, for my preservation.

I then ran down to the sea side, and brought away the provisions we had confided to the raft. My heart grieved inwardly at the sight of this our last and only hope, which perhaps in a few hours might be snatched from us, for ever. I endeavoured to moor it in such a manner, as might better enable it to resist the raging of the sea, if a second storm should assail us. I took away the mast, sail, and cordage; in short, every thing that we could not repair upon a second wreck, and laid them by in a safe place, beyond the reach of the waves; but the blanket particularly I brought up to our invalids, who needed the comfort of it in their weak state.

I spent the rest of the day in assisting and comforting the mother and the son, doing and saying every thing in my

power that I thought might strengthen and encourage them, and remove all obstacles to our departure.

The grief of Mad. *La Couture*, and her fears about her son, were the sole cause of her disorder. These I contrived to dissipate in part, not in giving her hopes that I had not myself, being thoroughly persuaded that he could not recover, but by inspiring her with resolution to bear the misfortune, and a perfect resignation to the will of Heaven.

I thought it better thus to prepare her for the event I expected, and which I apprehended would happen before the next morning, than to amuse her with ill-grounded hopes; for indeed he was reduced by this time to the most deplorable situation imaginable; he had wholly recovered his senses, but his feebleness was so great, that he was obliged to lye stretched on the ground, in his blanket; his limbs could not support his body, either to stand, or sit up, and it was with the utmost difficulty he could turn himself from one side to the other.

I lay awake that whole night, by his side, watching, to lend him any assistance he might stand in need of; nor did he close his eyes, but spoke to me frequently, returning me thanks for my kindness and attention, and regretting extremely his being the cause of retarding our voyage.

I never in my life heard any thing so tender and affecting, as the expressions this young man addressed to me on this melancholy occasion. He had an excellent natural understanding, with a quick and deep sensibility, and a spirit and firmness of mind far beyond his years.

About break of day, he found himself growing worse; and I had the precaution to keep his mother at a considerable distance from him, that she might not see him in his last agonies. This is a spectacle that is shocking to common spectators; what must it be to a parent! I knew well that all the fortitude I had taken such pains to inspire her with, would have failed her at such a sight, which has double the effect on our minds that the mere hearing of it has.

The young man exerting all his strength, spoke to me thus: "Accept, Sir, my thanks for all the kindness you have shown me; and pardon the anxiety and trouble I have given you, which can now no longer soothe or serve me. I feel the hour of death approaching.—I shall never quit this island; and were Heaven to prolong my days, I could not accompany you in your voyage; my legs refuse their support, and can no longer bear me. Were I even arrived on the *Continent*, they have not strength to convey me from the borders; and habitations are rarely found upon the coasts. I must then be left in the woods, a prey to wild beasts, and experience dangers still more dreadful than those I have already sustained."

"Let me advise you," said he, after a short pause, "to be gone; take the advantage of the present moment, and the raft you have prepared. If that should be lost, you have no other means of relief." Then pressing my hand between his, the tears starting from his eyes: "Take with you," said he, "take my dear mother; the knowing that she is under your care will yield a consolation to my latest moments. Leave me what provisions you can spare; if Heaven should yet lend me life a little longer, I may want them. When you are arrived in any place of safety, you will not forget me, but will have the humanity, I doubt not, to return hither again, and to afford me that succour and relief that I must certainly stand in need of, should I be found alive; or supply the rites of sepulture, should you, as most probable, find me dead."

"Make no reply," said he, perceiving I was about to interrupt him. "What I require is just; the uncertain hope of seeing me in a condition to accompany you, ought not to make you risk the certain danger of perishing with me.—No; I will die alone. Dear friend, be gone, protect my mother; hide from her the condition I am reduced to, and the counsel I have given.—Comfort her—and depart."

I stood mute and astonished, during his discourse; a thousand ideas rushed confusedly into my mind, though all concurring in this one, that our deliverance depended on following his advice; and cruel necessity urged me to comply, while humanity, compassion, and tenderness, opposed it. Agitated by these different emotions, I clasped him in my arms, while my flowing tears bedewed his dying face. I applauded his fortitude, and exhorted him to preserve it to the last moment; and parted from him without rendering him still further unhappy, by mentioning the state of irresolution I yet remained in, about following the counsel he had so strongly and generously recommended to me.

When I retired, I was wholly wrapped up in reflections on his discourse. I admired it, and thought, with horror, that we must unavoidably perish all together, if I delayed to undertake the adventure he had pointed out to me; and yet the idea of abandoning him in so forlorn a situation, shocked my humanity, and suspended my resolve. I could have borne him on my shoulders to the raft, and have given him every assistance, during the passage; but then what was to become of him, on our landing? We could carry him no further; and where could we repose him then with safety? His state in the island was attended with less dangers than those to which he must be necessarily exposed, in this journey: here was no wild beast to fear, and some conveniences were already provided for him.

Dwelling on this idea for some time, my mind became

more familiar with it, and by degrees the thought of leaving him behind me began to appear less repugnant to my feelings. My own preservation, his mother's also, our inevitable destruction, in the present circumstances of our fate, appeared to be a sufficient dispensation from attending one moment longer to any other consideration.

I flattered myself that our voyage would be short; and that we should presently arrive at some inhabited part of the *Continent*, where I might find a boat and such assistance as would enable me to return immediately, and restore him to his mother's arms. This prospect, however improbable in itself, appeared then, to the warmth of my hopes and wishes, to be no unlikely event. And yet, notwithstanding such a reflection, I could not bring myself to put my resolves into execution all that day.

In the evening I returned to the young man again, who reproved my delay, in the most affecting terms: "If," said he, "your stay here could procure me even a respite from death, I might not, perhaps, oppose it; but your best efforts cannot avail me, now. I may, perhaps, linger out a day or two longer, while another storm may arise, and carry off the float, on which your only trust depends at present. You will then lament in vain that you had not taken my advice; and your distress will be the more aggravated, by finding that your delay has neither afforded me consolation or assistance. I shall then expire before my dear mother's eyes, and carry with me to the grave the melancholy assurance that she will not long survive me. In the mean time, I shall leave her overwhelmed with sorrow and despair; every object in this place, which she can then have no hope of ever quitting, will revive my image to her mind, and renew the source of her griefs, which absence, time, and change of place, may serve to weaken and relieve. Take the advantage of this night, to make your preparations; collect all your provisions together, leave me a small portion of them, and depart at dawn of day; do not disturb my mother, till you are ready to embark; suffer her to imagine that I am no more, and that you would remove her from a sight that might distract her; leave her still in this error, but endeavour to console her under it."

The state in which I beheld this young man, his amazing composure of mind, with the urgent necessity we were under, at last determined me. I took the coverlet he had over him, and gave him, in its stead, a furtout I had on. I stripped myself also of my waistcoat, and put it on him, leaving him accommodated with every thing that it was then in my power to afford him.

While I was setting up my mast, to which I fastened the coverlet, by way of sail, the negro collected for us a large

quantity of shell-fish, which soon completed my little cargo of sustenance. I took some of them, and dried them by the fire, which, with what other aliments I could procure, I placed within the reach of *La Couture*. - The spring was now advanced; the nights were no longer cold, and fire therefore became less necessary to him.

I then laid myself down to rest, for some hours, waiting for that of my departure, but could not sleep; so that I passed the time in conversing with the poor invalid, who reposed as little as myself, and who made the most generous efforts on himself, all the while, in persuading me to bear our separation with fortitude; and requesting, at the close of every period, that I would comfort and protect his mother; but the violence he did himself, in this exertion of his strength and spirits, overcame him at last; and an hour before day he appeared to be deprived of all sense and motion.

My utmost endeavours could not bring him to himself, and I gave him up for dead. I must confess that I thought this an happy release to him, and a consolation also to myself, as I should now be able to quit him without any manner of regret; but at day-break I perceived he yet breathed, though he remained speechless, and seemed to be in the last agonies of death. I left him, however, all the necessaries I could. I filled the shells of the oysters with fresh water, and placed them so near him, that should he ever happen to recover strength enough to need it, he might not want refreshment; not that I had the least hope, in so doing, that he could ever survive to a state capable of receiving benefit from my care.

Having thus done all in my power toward his preservation, I recommended him in my prayers to Heaven, and then went to take charge of his mother, whom I awaked with some difficulty. "Madame," said I, hastily, "we must be gone; Heaven ordains it, and 'tis our duty to submit to its decrees. Let us hasten from hence, time presses, and a moment's delay may be irreparable."—"Ah!" cried she out, "my son is no more!—my husband dead!—all, all is lost!"

Here she stood silent, while floods of tears supplied the place of less expressive words; nor did I attempt to stop their natural course; but led her immediately to our raft, to which she made not the least resistance. I feared she would have asked to see her son, which might, perhaps, have ruined our design, by retarding our voyage for another day, and have rendered her incapable, also, of undertaking it, by depriving her of the strength which was so necessary for her to preserve on so trying an occasion; but happily she had no idea, but that her son was far beyond all human care; and, indeed, I was myself so fully assured of it, that, in addressing my prayers to Heaven, while I guided the float, I

recommended his departed soul, as well as our safety, to its providence.

It was on the 19th of *April*, as near as I can recollect, that we left the island; and, after twelve hours sail, happily reached the *Continent*, without the least accident or inconvenience, except that of labour and fatigue. The first thing we did was to thank the Supreme Being for our safe landing; we forsook the raft, after having taken out our provisions, blankets, and cordage, and endeavoured to advance into the country; but found it impracticable, it being for the most part overflowed; which greatly distressed us, and evinced that our troubles were not yet at an end, but pursued us alike by sea and land.

It was now sun-set. The extreme weariness we sunk under, and the fear of losing ourselves in the night, made us look about for some place of safety. We made choice of a piece of rising-ground, which, by its eminence, preserved us from the waters that every-where surrounded us: here were, also, several large trees, whose branches, now furnished with leaves, sheltered us from the wind and dews. I took out my flint, which I never ate, drank, slept, or moved a step without; and striking a light, presently kindled a good fire, by which we sat down, and supped on some of the provisions we had brought with us.

Here we hoped to have passed the night in quiet, as our fatigue had inclined our eyes to sleep and our limbs to rest, which, indeed, we much wanted; but no sooner had we reposed ourselves, than we were awakened with such dreadful howlings, as struck our hearts with terror and dismay; they seemed to answer each other, and encompass us on all sides. 'Tis impossible to conceive the horror with which we were seized, expecting every moment to become a prey to these ferocious animals, that seemed to approach us nearer and nearer, as the din grew louder at every howl.

My negro, giving way to the first emotion of his fear, ran to a tree, into which he climbed with inconceivable swiftness. Mad. *La Couture* followed him instantly, wringing her hands, and begging him to assist her to gain the same asylum; but his apprehension rendered him deaf to her cries, as it did her to my call; for in vain I entreated them both to return; in vain assured them that, by quitting the fire, they had left the only place of security.

I then soon heard a voice of terror, calling out to me, "Help! help! Mr. *Viaud*, or I am lost!" I immediately snatched up a brand out of the fire, my apprehension for her getting the better of all fears for myself, and flew to her assistance. By the light of my torch I perceived Mad. *La Couture* running toward me with the utmost speed, pursued by a large bear, who, at sight of me, stopped short. I ad-

vanced toward him, with trembling steps, my fire-brand in my hand; and having joined Mad. *La Couture*, conducted her back unhurt; the bear sending forth a hideous growl, but not daring to follow us.

I then endeavoured to convince her that our safety depended on staying in this place; for that fire had always been found the best means of keeping off wild beasts; who never ventured to approach it. The distance at which the bear kept from us, and the daunted look with which he eyed us, confirmed her in this opinion, and she began to recover her courage again, when we received a new alarm.

The tree which the negro had climbed into, was at some distance from us; the extremity of his fear not permitting him to make a choice, though there were several nearer to us, which might have afforded him a safer shelter. I looked directly toward the place where the cries proceeded; and by the light of our fire, which now blazed prodigiously, I saw the bear had reared itself up against the very tree where this unfortunate boy had betaken himself for refuge, and was attempting to climb it.

I knew not which way to give him the least assistance; but called to him to get to the highest and most pliant boughs, that were at the same time strong enough to bear his weight, though too slight to support this unwieldy animal, whose instinctive faculties are such as direct them not to venture on any but the larger branches.

At the same time I threw several flaming faggots against the foot of the tree, in hopes to fright the beast from his purpose; which happily succeeded at last: for having thrown them thick on each other, they burned together with great fierceness, and formed a second bon-fire, the blaze and smoke of which almost blinded the beast, who descending precipitately on the other side of the tree, quitted the field directly.

All hopes of sleep or rest, for this night, were now given over; our apprehensions were continually kept awake by the incessant howlings which surrounded us, and continued till morning: several bears approached near enough for us to distinguish their horrid forms; and some tigers appeared also in sight, which, perhaps magnified by our fears, appeared of a most enormous size; nay, there was one of them that advanced nearer to us than any of the rest, in defiance of our *passive* fire; but, upon my darting several lighted faggots at him, he retreated, after having sent forth a most horrid howl, which was echoed back by all the other beasts of the forest.

In order to secure ourselves from any further visits from such horrid neighbours, we cast about a number of flaming brands, as far as our strength could throw them, so as to

form a sort of torrid zone about our central fire. This expedient, by removing the beasts at a greater distance from us, kept them out of our sight, and, therefore, lessened our fears. But then, as this was done at the expence of our bon-fire, the least echo that encompassed it was consuming fast, and we dreaded extremely, lest it should be all spent before the morning's dawn.

But happily the night had been further advanced than we imagined, before our fire began to fail us; and the howlings, which had long terrified us, grew less and less; seemed to retire to a greater distance every moment; and, at length, left not the least echo of themselves vibrating on the air, by the time that day appeared. The savage brutes, at its approach, retired into their dens, there to lye down and sleep till night should again set them at liberty to roam abroad for prey.

I took the advantage of this favourable circumstance, to gather in some fresh fuel, and recruit our fire. I then summoned my negro to assist me, whom it was with much difficulty I could prevail on to descend from the uppermost branch of the tree he had perched himself in, and who, when he came before me, appeared more dead than alive.

After the fear and fatigue of the night, we could not think of setting forward, before we had taken some repose, which we stood in great need of; and at last, ventured to stretch ourselves down before our fire; but the agitations of our minds prevented us from any perfect enjoyment of that blessing, and we slumbered rather than slept till noon.

We then took a slight repast, which consumed the remainder of our provisions, and began our journey, moving easterly, in hopes of getting to *St. Mark* in the *Apalachian Mountains*, and meeting in our route with some of the savages, who might conduct us on our way, or furnish us with provisions.

Our weakness did not suffer us to go far that day, our journey being only about an hour and an half's slow pace; we took care to halt, before our little strength was quite exhausted; the terrors of the night before warned us to use some time and precaution, in collecting a sufficient quantity of wood for our fire. We gathered as much as we could, and halted on a spot situated almost as our last stage had been.

After having constructed our principal pile, without lighting it, we fixed a dozen others all round it, at above twenty yards distance from our centre, dividing the circle into equal intervals. This was necessary to guard the approach on all sides, and was the only method we could devise to defend us from the fury of the wild beasts.

Fear was the first principle of our actions, which must

have been very powerful in us, when it was superior to the pressing calls of hunger. We then began to look about for food of any kind; but the place we were in, as well as all we had passed through, was completely barren of every sort of nourishment: there were neither fish, roots, nor vegetables fit for eating, to be found. We searched everywhere in vain; and thought ourselves happy at last, in meeting even with a pool of muddy water, which, however, had not been stagnated, of which we drank plentifully; and this was the only meal we had to subsist on for the whole day.

As soon as the night fell, I struck fire, and lighted up all our piles: I did not care to do this sooner, because there could be no danger till the howling began; and that it was requisite to manage our small stock of fuel with the most sparing economy, to make it hold out till the next morning.

We then immediately laid ourselves down to rest, in order to secure some minutes sleep, before the savage monsters should come prowling through the plain, and rouse us from our slumbers by their dreadful yells. They did not disturb us till about midnight, and we slept soundly till then: our fatigue and weakness had caused such an oblivion of our senses, that it prevented our hearing them before; as I might well judge, from the horrid din which assailed our ears the instant we awoke, that they must have been proclaiming war for some time, as they were got into full cry before we heard them.

We imagined that all the savage beasts throughout the deserts of this new world had been gathered together, to terrify us with their howlings. The different species of animals were to be distinguished by their cries; the roarings of the lions were eminently dreadful, above all the rest, and danger appeared to approach us nearer than we had apprehended it, either of the nights before; for we seemed to be separated from the beasts themselves, only by the narrow circle of our fires; which continued happily all in a blaze, and so prevented any of them from approaching us near enough to be seen; which was a lucky circumstance for us, as the dismay, which such a brutal thunder had thrown us into before, would have been so augmented at the sight of them, that one only appearing in view would have killed us with fear.

Mad. *La Couture* and the negro were in a shocking situation. I saw them several times faint quite away with fear, and called back again to sense by the howling of the wolf, the churming of the bear, the growling of the tiger, or the roaring of the lion. My terror was certainly not inferior to theirs, and yet I pretended to encourage and hearten them, at first; but, while I was striving to inspire them with courage, I lost my own: a cold sweat bedewed all my limbs,

and my crouching close to the fire was the only thing that kept me from falling into a swoon.

The wished-for morn at length arrived, and, by driving the beasts back to their dens, relieved our alarms, which had hitherto suspended the cruel sensations of hunger: but, as soon as our fears were abated, these began to operate to a severe degree. Thus were we destined to sustain, alternately, the most bitter ills of life, hunger and fear. But the necessity of food, under an impossibility of procuring it, is certainly the greatest of them. We tried every thing we could lay our hands on, put it into our mouths, and spit it out as fast again.

We could not think of lying down to rest, as we had done the morning before; but marched forward, in hopes of meeting with some vegetable fit to eat, and tried every plant in the desert, but in vain. They were either dry heath, or leafless brambles whose stems were only a hard wood, which we could scarcely penetrate with our teeth, and which we could not prevail on ourselves to swallow the juice of, after we had chewed them.

Every experiment we made failed equally of success, forced tears from our eyes, and sunk us to the utmost depth of despair. Toward evening we arrested our course, oppressed with the agonies of grief, and without the least ability to proceed one step further. We laid ourselves down on the ground, doubtful whether we should ever be able to raise our limbs from it again; waiting for death, and praying for it with fervency, as the only hope we had to terminate our unparalleled misery.

The negro, who was as weak as us, but animated by the rage of hunger, started up, ran to a tree that he had been looking earnestly at for some time, and gathering handfuls of the leaves, devoured them with a greediness that surprised us, and made me conclude that they must be of a delicious flavour. The idea that they might serve for food, encouraged our appetite; and we followed the negro to the tree, and partook of his eager repast.

Our hunger and our hopes gave to those leaves a flavour that they had not in themselves, and we swallowed them as voraciously as the slave had done; but finding that this vegetable only filled our stomachs, without feeding them, after having eaten a tolerable quantity of them, we became afraid of venturing further on such a doubtful meal, and retired from the tree.

After this experiment we prepared for our security during the night, and employed ourselves in heaping up piles of wood for our fires, as before; which was no very difficult task, as we found a sufficient quantity of dry timber near the place we had determined to sojourn in till morning. We soon

finished our work, and sat down in the middle of it, waiting till the closing of the day should oblige us to light the heaps.

But we had hardly reposed ourselves for an hour, when we all of us found ourselves extremely sick; the leaves we had eaten gave us such a convulsion in our bowels, that it was with difficulty we could writhe ourselves along the ground, till we reached a neighbouring spring, of which we drank plentifully, when we immediately felt our stomachs puffed up, almost to bursting; for it seems that the vegetables we had swallowed were of a spongy nature, and were swelled by the water. We forced ourselves to puke, which discharged the load by degrees; but not without great agony and voiding of blood.

We lay stretched by the spring for a considerable time, without strength or motion, incapable of removing ourselves, and expecting to expire every moment; the setting sun left us in this helpless situation, and the night had far advanced upon us, before we were in a condition to stir. We lamented at not being able to return to our piles to light them up; we expected every instant that the wild beasts would come to devour us; and this terror increased our weakness. We sighed, we wept, we murmured our complainings, but had not strength enough to utter them aloud.

The night having been now far spent, augmented our dread; we tried again to creep on our knees and hands to our asylum; and after the utmost efforts, we at last reached it; but so enfeebled, that it was with the greatest difficulty I was able to strike a light from my flint, the sparks of which were received on a piece of cloth that Mad. La Couture was obliged to tear off from her shift; and even after this was done, I almost despaired of communicating the flame to some dry chips and leaves that had been before prepared for this purpose; our breath was too weak to blow it up; but at length we had the good fortune to set fire to our principal pile, after an infinite deal of almost hopeless labour.

The horrid din which we had been used to the preceding nights, began now to strike our ears at a distance; we congratulated each other at the sight of our bonfire, which was so necessary to our safety; and to secure ourselves still further, it was necessary to light up the other heaps of wood that we had encircled the first with. We made new efforts for that purpose; we divided the toil among us; and each taking two burning faggots in our hands, set fire to the piles one after another.

The fear we were possessed with, served to animate our minds, and supplied sufficient strength to our bodies, to execute this necessary work in less time than I thought it possible for our exhausted powers to have effected it; and we had scarcely finished our business, when the howlings from

the desert resounded from all sides, and seemed to approach quite near to us.

It is almost impossible to express the satisfaction and security we were sensible of, in having been able, so critically, to illuminate our *feux de joye*, as they might have been emphatically deemed at that instant. We had considerably augmented them on that night; and this circumstance had therefore lessened our apprehensions, which, however, continued still very powerful with us, because they were increased by the additional feeble state both of our bodies and minds, occasioned by our fatigues, watchings, and severe hunger.

Even the food we had attempted, had reduced our strength still more than fasting could have done, as it added sickness to famine, and despair to difficulty. However, before the morning's dawn we fell into a slumber, and so received relief from our very weakness.

We did not awake, till toward noon, and felt ourselves but little refreshed from our sleep, and miserably pressed by our sickly pains and loud calls of hunger. We looked up at the tree we had so madly fed upon the day before, with an horror and disgust stronger still than the rage of appetite, as it had brought us nearer death than famine itself would have done.

We then arose to pursue our uncertain journey, in hopes of being able to meet with some sort of aliment in our way, to recruit our sinking spirits; we made trials, as usual, on every new species of plant, root, or vegetable we could pick up, but with as little success as heretofore; there was neither favour nor nourishment in any of them.

Our hunger increased every moment, but the hope of being able to assuage it sustained us every step, and enabled us to travel on 'till the afternoon. We cast our eyes around, but could see nothing to rest our wearied sight upon, but a boundless and barren waste, extending on all sides. At length we arrived at a piece of rising ground, where we expected to have a view of some fruitful spot, or hospitable village; but all was as dreary as before; nothing but an immense horizon, with the sea on the right, a forest on the left, which stretched beyond our sight, and before us a desert plain, where nothing was to be distinguished but the traces and ordure of wild beasts.

Such an howid prospect threw us into the most shocking state of despair; our exhausted spirits died within us; we no longer thought of continuing our hopeless and uncertain route, in which we could not possibly foresee any end to our wants and miseries, except death alone.

However, we again arose, and directed our steps toward the forest, entirely relying on Providence: its thickness and gloom made us tremble; the trees stood so close together,

that there were but few openings left us to pass through, and we had not proceeded many yards in some of these paths, before we found them close upon us; while we were wound about through others, to the very place we had first entered at; but one of them led us so far into the wood, that we soon lost our way, without hope of being ever able to recover the plain again, and with a moral certainty of being there devoured by famine, or some beast.

None of these trees afforded any kind of fruit that might have served for food, the most of them bearing only the same sort of leaves that had like to have poisoned us before. "It is now completely over with us," cried I out, in a transport of grief; "here must we lay down our lives; our miseries are within a few hours of terminating themselves."

I fell on the ground, as I uttered these words. Mad. *La Cauture* laid herself down by me, and the negro placed himself before us, but at a little distance. We all wept bitterly, without raising our eyes from the earth, and kept a sad silence, buried in the most horrid reflections. We each of us foresaw our immediate destruction, and had no new object to consult or advise one another upon.

In this dismal moment the most shocking ideas pressed upon my mind. "Was there ever another mortal," cried I out, "in a situation so totally devoid of relief or hope, as we are?" The recollection then came across me, of some voyagers I had read of, where ships being driven out of their course by storms, and long detained by contrary winds in unknown seas, till all their provisions had been spent, the crews, after having sustained their hunger to the last extremity, were reduced to the shocking necessity of killing some one among them for the support of the rest, and had cast lots for the victim.

Dare I confess it to you, my friend? Your blood will run cold at the continuance of my recital; but do me the justice to believe that your horror cannot possibly equal mine. Observe to what excess despair and hunger joined may transport us, and pity the necessity, rather than condemn the action, to which my miseries had now reduced me.

While the situation of these voyagers was running in my head, my roving eyes happened to fall upon the negro, though without design or direction; but they fastened themselves upon him, for some moments, with a greediness that I could not conquer, or resist. "He is dying of famine already" (said I, with an emphasis); "and to rid him of his languishment must be a kindness to him; he is perishing piecemeal, and all our efforts cannot relieve him; what then should forbid my rendering his death serviceable to those of us that may survive?"

This reflection, however cruel in itself, did not, at that

instant, shock my humanity. My reason was impaired, my mind sympathized with the weakness of my body; hunger had griped me in its talons; and the irresistible temptation of relieving myself from such insufferable agonies, was the only principle that could be listened to in that dread moment.

All other means were now become impossible; there was but this alone to rest upon; my distracted soul was rendered incapable of consideration or reflection, beyond the present evil; it possessed me with horrid purposes, and supplied me with sufficient sophistry to justify them. "What wrong shall I be guilty of?" (continued I still to argue with myself.) Is he not my entire property? I have bought him, for my sole use; and what greater service can his whole life ever amount to, than relieving the miseries which now oppress me?"

Mad. *La Couture*, agitated with the same inhuman ideas, seemed to overhear these last expressions; and, though ignorant of the chain of reflections which had led to them, the sympathy of her feelings having sufficiently explained them, she called to me in a feeble tone of voice; and, when I looked at her, she turned her eyes upon the negro; and pointing to him with her hand, cast a look at me, so full of horror and impatience, and seconded by such supplicating gestures, as spoke her eagerness and wishes stronger than it was in the power of speech to have done.

I seemed to have waited for this encouragement; and, thinking myself further justified by her concurrence with my purpose, I hesitated no longer; but rising up with precipitation, and seizing a knotty staff, which I used to walk with on my marches, I ran at the wretched victim, who was then lying asleep, and struck him on the head with all the force my reduced strength enabled me to do.

He awakened at the blow, but was so stunned that he could not rise up, which he attempted; and my up-lifted arm, now trembling, refused to repeat the stroke; my heart shook within me, as if loosened from my body, while struggling humanity unnerved every sinew that was necessary to complete the murder.

The unhappy wretch, recovering himself soon, had risen upon his knees, and joining his hands together, with a terrified look and dismayed accent, cried out, "What are you a-doing, my dear master? Have I offended you? Have mercy on me; at least, O spare my life!"

Compassion now took the place of cruelty, and my tears fell faster than his; for the space of two minutes I stood motionless, without power to speak or resolve; but, at length, rage and hunger having stifled the voice of pity, a second look and groan from my companion in distress recalled my former fury. I became a wolf again, a crocodile, an hyena! And thus distracted beyond the power of reason, I

fell upon the miserable wretch, pressing him beneath me to the ground, and roaring out, at the same time, to increase my frenzy, and to smother his cries, which might possibly, as before, have stopped my bloody purpose; and, tying his hands behind his back, called out to my accomplice to assist me in this barbarous execution.

She came readily on the summons; and keeping down his head, while I lay along on the rest of his body, I drew out my knife, and striking it deep into his throat, soon put an end to all further strife. I then laid the carcass across a large tree that happened to lie on the ground near us, in order to let the blood flow the more freely; and she assisted me in this work also.

This action, with the violent agitations of madness which we had sustained during the perpetration of it, had quite exhausted our strength; and our reason began to return, only to load our consciences with the most bitter reproaches. We then sat down upon the ground, for some time, to recover ourselves a little, with our faces turned from the shocking spectacle deprived of life, in an instant, by our cruelty.

We now reflected, with the utmost horror, on the crime we had been guilty of; then starting up, and hastening to a spring, to wash our bloody hands, which we could not look upon without the extremest terror and contrition, we lifted them up to Heaven, first falling on our knees, in fervent supplication for pardon of our inhuman deed, and daring also to prefer our prayers, at the same time, for the soul of our late departed sacrifice.

What extremes and contractions there are in the nature of man! What an opposition of sentiment actuates us sometimes, almost in the same instant! Piety immediately succeeded to our barbarity, and, vindicating her rights, suspended for a while, even the pressing and incessant demands of hunger. "Great God!" (we jointly cried out) "thou seest our situation and excessive miseries! These were the authors of the murder our hands have been compelled to commit. Have mercy, good Lord, on the penitence of two unhappy wretches! Bless, at least, the horrid meal we are about to partake of, and suffer that food to sustain our bodies for which our minds have already paid so dear." After this prayer we rose up, lighted a large fire, and consummated our savage action by a cannibal feast.

How have I dared to enter into such a detail as this? The sole recollection of the story shocks my memory. No, my friend, I never was a barbarian before. Alas! my nature is far distant from cruelty or inhumanity. You know me too well to need any justification of myself to you. You should, therefore, be my only reader; and I would suppress this part of my narrative, if I thought I was ever to have any other.

What an idea would they form of my character! Of what atrocious action would they not think me capable! It is after the privation of my reason, occasioned by the severest miseries, that they would probably pretend to judge of me; few would be candid enough to take my misfortunes into the scale, and consider that both the excess and the species of them were heavy enough to overbalance the best natural dispositions of the human heart.

As soon as our pile was lighted, I cut off the head of the negro, and fastening it to the end of a stick, turned and roasted it before the fire; but our impatience did not suffer us to wait till it was quite done; for we began to devour it when it was little more than warmed through. After we had thus allayed the rage of hunger, we prepared for passing the night in the place we were, and defending ourselves, as usual, against the wild beasts. We expected that their approach would prevent our sleeping, and we were not disappointed. We, therefore, employed ourselves till day-break, in cutting up the negro into quarters and joints, and hanging in the smoke of our fire, to dry and preserve it, not having any salt.

The agonies we had so lately been reduced to, by famine, made us dread our being exposed to the same again; we endeavoured, therefore, to make our provisions hold out as long as we could. We rested the next day, and the following night, on the present spot, in order to complete our housewifery; during which time we were extremely sparing of our aliment, eating nothing but those scraps and pieces which we thought might soonest turn to putrefaction. We made several parcels of the rest, which we tied up in what handkerchiefs we had left, and in pieces torn off from our clothes, which we fastened on our backs with the cordage of our float.

On the 28th of *April*, as near as I could then compute, we set forward on our journey. The remaining so long in one place had sufficiently reposed our limbs; the nourishment we had taken for these two days, had repaired our strength; and the certainty of not feeling hunger for a considerable time to come, supplied us with the courage of attempting our way through the middle of the forest, which had appeared so desperate an undertaking on our first entrance into it.

We marched forward, but with a slow pace, and bitterly regretting the loss of our former fellow-traveller, whose miserable remains we were both then incumbered with. We journeyed, for several days, with great difficulty and fatigue, sometimes labouring through strong high bulrushes, at other times through brambles, thorns, and various kinds of prickly plants, that tore our legs, and cut our feet in such a manner as occasioned great loss of blood.

This distress, though less miserable than hunger, retarded

us considerably, and the stings of the muskitos and sand-flies, and an armed host of other winged insects peculiar to that climate, had disfigured us so much, that it was impossible for either of us to distinguish a feature in the other; our faces, our hands, and legs being so swelled, with the venom of their bite.

In order to rid ourselves of such troublesome enemies, we thought it best to get from among the trees that harboured them, and travel along the sea-side, for the future, in hopes of meeting some kind of food there, which might enable us to spare the small stock of provisions we had now remaining; and, accordingly, at the first opening that pointed toward the right, we directed our course, and happily reached the shore.

We were not quite disappointed in our expectation; for, when the weather was fair and the tide out, we met with some cockles, and a few small flounders, which we hooked up out of the water, with a sort of harpoon I had made of a branch of a tree, crooked and pointed at the end. But of such food we never could procure sufficient, at any one time, for a meal; and but seldom had the good fortune to hit upon it. It was, however, some little relief to us, and for which we most gratefully returned our thanks to Providence.

I cannot give you, day by day, an account of this difficult and fatiguing journey, the end of which seemed to be still further off, the longer we travelled. The sea-reeds, which spread all along the coast, gave us as much labour to pass through, as the thorns and brambles of the forest. They were strong and dry, and numbers of them being broken by the wind, fell a-cross, and intangled our legs, almost at every step.

The wild beasts kept us in terror, every night; to which was added the horror of our very meals, as we never could eat till we had finished our journey for the day, and lighted up our fires. Our first ravenous hunger having been appeased, our minds had recovered their original tone; and we were shocked to the last degree, at being obliged to swallow such inhuman food. We never could taste a morsel of this horrid sustenance, till we were reduced to the last necessity, could meet with no other sort of provision, and that the returning cravings of hunger had, in some measure, conquered our disgust.

One evening, when we came to our usual halt, I felt myself so extremely feeble, that I had scarce strength enough to gather sufficient wood for our principal pile; but found it utterly impossible to provide the several lesser heaps for the circle with which I always used to surround it; for my limbs were become so swelled and bloated, that I was no longer able to stand.

It happily, at the same instant, occurred to me, that I could more effectually supply this exigence, by setting fire to the reeds and broom around us, which the wind would assist in extending on all sides. This would serve to keep the beasts at a still greater distance, and afford us likewise this further advantage, that by destroying these impediments in our way, we might be enabled to pursue our future journeys, with less delay, by marching in that road that had been cleared for us by the fire.

This scheme succeeded to our utmost expectation; for, the next day, we found every obstacle of this kind removed, as far as our sight could reach, and our route marked out and cleared from all obstructions, more effectually by the fire, than a thousand pioneers could have done. This made me regret that so simple a thought should never have occurred to me before, which would have saved us from the wound, pain, and delays, we had hitherto suffered, and which had so greatly shortened our former marches.

We met also, on our next day's journey, with a new sort of provision, that was extremely palatable and nourishing to us. It was two rattle-snakes, whereof one had fourteen, and the other twenty-one scales, or joints, in its tail, which are said to mark their age, as it is affirmed by some writers that one grows every year. They were very large; the fire had surrounded them when asleep, and suffocated them. Those reptiles sufficiently supplied us with fresh food for this day and the next, having first cut off the heads where the poison lies; and we dried the remainder of them in the smoak of our fire, and added it to the rest of our provisions.

In the course of our marches, I had the happiness to meet with a further addition to our provisions. One morning I happened to spy a large cayman*, a species of the crocodile kind, of about twelve feet in length, asleep, in a pool of water near where I passed along. I stopped immediately, to survey it; nor did the view of this monster affect me with so much terror as might naturally be imagined, though I was not ignorant how dangerous an animal it is. The only idea that struck me, at first, was, that if I could kill it, its flesh would yield us a considerable increase to our itinerant stores. I hesitated some moments, before I attacked it; but it was not fear that stopped my hand; it was only a doubt about the surest manner of attempting it.

I then advanced to the verge of the lake, with my staff in my hand, which was a piece of hard heavy wood, with which I discharged three strokes on its head, as quick and as forcibly as my strength and activity could enable me. This stunned

* This animal is more generally known by the name of Tacaré; and breeds in the Brasils, as well as in America.

the creature so much, that though it roused him, it left him neither power to spring upon me, nor to fly.

It only opened its dreadful jaws through rage and agony, into which I immediately darted the end of my staff that was sharp pointed, and piercing it through its throat, staked it down to the ground, standing myself at the other extremity of the spear, which I held bent toward me. The monster made such violent efforts by its contortions, through pain and fury, that if my weapon had not been remarkably tough, and forced deep into the earth, it would have been impossible to have resisted its convulsions, and I should soon perhaps have become a victim to my rashness.

I exerted all my strength to keep it pinned down, in this manner, and was in such a position that it had been dangerous to have changed it, for the purpose of finishing its destruction; therefore I called out to Mad. *La Couture*, who had kept aloof from the first, entreating her to come to my assistance; but she dared not venture near enough: however, she threw me a club of between three and four feet long, which I took in one hand, while I held down the staff in the other, and soon completed my conquest over this formidable enemy.

As soon as the animal had ceased all further struggling, my companion recovering her courage, came up to me, and having both her hands at liberty, took the club from me, now almost spent, and continued the bruises, 'till she had beaten its head into a mummy; after which she severed its tail from the body.

This action cost me vast fatigue, hazard, and labour, but it sufficiently repaid my pains. We gave over all thoughts of pursuing our journey further that day, as so large a carcase afforded us full employment for the rest of it, in preparing it for our travelling larder, in the same manner as we had cooked our former provisions.

We first dressed about three pounds of this animal for our present meal, and then cut the remainder of it into small pieces of about the same size, that they might be the sooner dried and smoked for future use. We made shoes, such as the savages wear, of the skin, for us both; and rolled some other parts of it round our legs, like boots, to defend us from the stings of the insects, which had distressed us so much before; we made gloves of it too, and also masks for our faces, which though very troublesome at first, yet finding them a sufficient shield against the attacks of these poisonous vermin, we became soon reconciled to the wearing of.

These were the several uses we applied our cayman to, and the remainder of this day and the succeeding night were wholly occupied in these preparations, against our next morning's march, which we commenced as soon as dawn appeared, and the howlings ceased. We did not lay our-

themselves down to sleep before we set out, as was usually our custom, but trusted to the following night for that repose which our present fatigue required. We feared to prolong our journey, by too frequent stoppings and delays, which had been already too much retarded by the short marches we had been hitherto restrained to, owing to the several impediments we had met with in our course.

The next day our journey was interrupted, for about an hour, by a river that ran across the road into the sea. It was not broad, but its current was extremely rapid. I tried if we could ford it, by pulling off my clothes, and going in to sound it; but found the passage impracticable, from the depth of the water, which prevented my wading through it; and had I attempted to swim over, the violence of the stream, which no strength could stem, would have hurried me along with it into the ocean.

But had it been in my power to have got the better of these difficulties, the poor woman could not possibly have been able to encounter them. So that I returned and dressed myself, in the most abject dejection of mind that can be conceived. There was then no other measure to take than to travel along by the side of a river toward its source, and make further essays on it, where we might find the current more gentle, or some shallow that might render the fording of it practicable.

We accordingly proceeded in this direction, and continued it for two entire days, without perceiving any place that afforded us the least probability of accomplishing our end, for the further we went the more dangerous the attempt still appeared. Our inquietude and despondency increased with our difficulties, and we even began to despair of ever being able to get out of this desert.

We had not the good fortune to meet with any manner of aliment, during these two days progress, and we were consequently obliged to feed upon the cayman, reserving still the unhappy negro's flesh for the last extremity, as being the food that would keep the longest. We trembled at the apprehension of exhausting all our provisions, before we might be fortunate enough to reach any inhabited spot of the earth, where we could be able to procure a fresh supply.

Terrified at the past, distressed with the present, diffident of the future, and impatient at the obstinate continuance of our misfortunes, we passed the dismal hours in faint hopes, heavy sighs, and then closing our reflections in absolute despair. The continual view of a river always rapid, added to the weariness of our minds; the impossibility of passing it, with the necessity, however, of still marching forward quite out of our purposed course, without the least prospect of meeting with a fordable passage, now finally damped all the spirit and

courage we had yet been able to preserve through our unparalleled miseries.

Toward the latter end of the second day, while we were tracing the source of this river, I happened to turn up a tortoise, which might perhaps weigh about ten pounds. This precious gift of Providence suspended the murmurs which used to escape us every minute before, and changed them into acclamations of gratitude. We had seen, the former day, a large hen-turkey come down and drink at the stream near us, and we concluded that it had its nest somewhere thereabout. The hope of discovering its eggs made us search every where, for a mile or two round the place; but in vain. This disappointment seemed to increase our misfortunes, and made us still more repine at our destiny.

But the luck of meeting with the tortoise reconciled us a little to fortune, and we prepared to feast upon it directly. Our pile was formed, and I was going to set fire to it, when, to my utter consternation and inexpressible grief, I could not find the flint! I searched all my pockets, turned them out, opened all our parcels of provisions, and looked and felt in every fold of them, with the closest scrutiny. Mad. *La Couture* assisted, and examined every thing after me again, but to no purpose.

What were our distractions! proportioned, to be sure, to our loss, our now irreparable misfortune. Did ever man sustain a greater? We then regarded the tortoise that we had just discovered with an extreme joy, as but a common pebble, which we could then most gladly have exchanged for any flint, and given the half of our provisions to boot. For how, without its assistance, could we prepare our food, guard us from the nightly cold and dews, and defend ourselves from the ravenous fury of wild beasts? What a wretched couple were we two, at that instant! What a dreadful situation!

I was certain that I could not have dropped the flint any where but in the place we had lighted up our fire, the night before, or on our road this morning from thence hither. Weak and weary as I was, I did not hesitate a moment to trace my footsteps back again to the spot where our dying embers lay, to search for it. I proposed this to Mad. *La Couture*, but I left her at liberty to come along with me, or wait my return; and she determined on the latter, as she was too feeble and exhausted, to be able to walk either backward or forward, without taking more rest than she had enjoyed for some time past.

She trembled, however, at the idea of being left by herself; but her impatience about recovering our lost treasure being fully equal to mine, she consented to my going alone, depending on my most solemn assurances of not abandoning her in so deplorable a situation, and of returning to her with the utmost speed, whether successful in my errand or not.

We had luckily not gone far that morning, about an hour and an half's walking having been the extent of our march; it was very early in the day, and I was sure of being able to be back in the evening, long before we need set up our rest for the night. But alas! I found this impossible; I was too weak to move fast; and besides, I stood still at every step of the way, to look about for the flint. I was in hopes that I had dropt it on some part of the road near where I had missed it, and that I should have the happiness to find it without being obliged to go all the way back to our last night's stage.

But I was cruelly disappointed in this surmise; and after an unprofitable search through every inch of the road we passed this morning, I was led back again to the very spot we had halted at the night before, about the dusk of the evening, when I could hardly distinguish much larger objects than the one I was in quest of. I kneeled down to the ground, in the very spot where we had rested before, and looked and groped everywhere about; but in vain.

Discontented with fatiguing myself to no purpose, I rose up and hastened to the hearth, in hopes of meeting with some unextinguished faggot to light up another fire, which might assist me in a further search. But I found the cinders all cold, without a spark alive in any of them.

Shocked at this new disappointment, as if it had been quite unexpected, I threw myself down on the ground, in the utmost distraction of mind, despairing to redress myself where I was, or be able to rejoin Mad. *La Couture* that night, and without the least thought indeed, of attempting it; for to have stirred from the spot without finding the flint, would have been madness; and I was therefore resolved to continue there, till the return of day might enable me to search for it with better success.

I then went and laid down on a heap of fern that we had gathered for a couch the night before; and it occurred to me, just at that minute, that I might more probably have dropt my flint here than anywhere else on my route. I deliberated, for an instant, with myself, whether I should not wait till I had sufficient light to look for it. This appeared to be perfectly reasonable, as I needed every kind of assistance to find so small a substance in the midst of so large an heap; and to feel for it in the dark, would have been both loss of time and rest.

These reflections were extremely rational; but my impatience could not brook delay. I stroked my hands leisurely over every inch of the surface of the bed, but met with nothing hard beneath them. When I began to do this, I designed to have troubled myself no farther till the morning, when I might examine every sprig of the heap with more care, and perhaps, with success; but my impatience still

urged me on; I immediately rose, and taking off the fym, layer after layer, shifted every handful of it through my fingers, and laid it by in another heap.

I spent most part of the night in this hopeless manner, and despaired of being ever able to find my treasure; when, having removed every part of the bed, and spreading my hands all over the ground where it had lain, I, at last, had the happiness to lay hold of the precious article I had been so long in search of. I was so distracted with joy, that I could not contrive whereabout me I could guard it with the greatest safety; and most solemnly vowed for the future never to suffer it to be one moment out of my sight, or feeling.

During all this time you may naturally suppose the terror I must have undergone, of the wild beasts. I had heard their hideous yells for a considerable time before; but it seemed to be at a far greater distance than usual. I was in dread not only for myself, but for my miserable companion, who was left alone, and whose horror must be extremely augmented by the darkness of the night. I therefore purposed immediately to return to her, if possible, to comfort and defend her; but confess that my fear of meeting with some misadventure on the way, held my mind a long time in suspense; and, in order to excuse the want of heroism in myself, upon that occasion, I considered that the conflagration I had spread all along the road we had travelled, for three nights past, and which had blazed far and wide about the country, must have frightened the wild animals to a safe distance from our route; and in reality, since the first time of this happy expedient, they had never ventured within the reach of our longest sight; and their howlings did not strike our ear, but by their echos only.

And yet this very reflection, in which I had made an apology for my cowardice, served to rouse my courage again. *If there be little danger for her, there can be less for me.* Upon this soliloquy I set out forthwith; but travelled, however, every step of the way, in fear and trembling, and was frequently tempted to stop and light a fire, in my own defence.

I continued, however, my march in the dark, without interruption or delay; for fear had lent me speed: and, notwithstanding my feeble state of body, I reached the spot where Mad. *La Couture* had couched herself down, about two hours before day. I had like to have passed her by, as the obscurity of the night, and the apprehensions I still laboured under, had rendered it impossible for me to mark the place I had left her in; but an heavy sigh that reached my ear, and which at first made me start, informed me that I was near her. She had heard the sound of my

feet, just at that instant, and, fearing it to proceed from the motion of some wild beast coming to devour her, she luckily sent forth that moan which had stopped me on my march forward.

I called out to her with a loud voice, "Is it you, Madam?"—"Yes, O yes!" she replied, in an almost fainting tone. "Good God! how you have alarmed me, and what a miserable age of time has your departure and delay occasioned me to undergo! Have you heard these horrid howlings? They have not ceased a moment since the night commenced, and as I did not find you return when I had reason to expect you, I concluded for a certainty, that you had been devoured by the wild beasts; and that it was impossible for me to survive you long."

"I am yet alive, thank God!" I cried, "and I have the happiness to find you so likewise. We are more than repaid for all our fears and fatigue. I have recovered my flint. Let us immediately then set about making a comfortable fire, before which we may first take refreshment, and then repose."

At these words we searched about for what sticks and dry leaves were near at hand, and gathering them into a heap together, soon lighted them up. A fragment of my shirt, that was worn almost to lint, served me for tinder, as it had done often before; though I sometimes obliged Mad. *La Couture* to furnish her quota too, upon such occasions.

When we had lighted up a large fire, we broiled some of our tortoise, which we thought extremely sweet and juicy. We found a number of small eggs when we opened the body of it, which we roasted on some hot cinders, and which supplied us with an wholesome and refreshing meal, that was of infinite service to us. We then ventured to lye down to sleep and rest, which we had the good fortune to indulge in for about five hours, and recruited our powers both of body and mind.

On our awaking, we consulted together, whether we should continue the route we had taken any further, or not. On considering the river, whose course was continued in a direct line, till it stretched beyond our view, we despaired of being able, during many days journey, to find a fordable passage across: we, therefore, determined on attempting to get over in the very spot where we then stood.

What encouraged us, at this time, was the observing half a dozen old leafless trees, brought down by the stream, and which had been stopped in their course, near the bank, by another that the wind had bent down into the river. This timber appeared to be sufficient for the framing a raft—that might be able to carry us safely to the opposite side.

I then took off my clothes, and waded into the water,

which was not very deep near the margin; and, fastening four of these trees together, which I thought might answer the purpose, by means of the rinds that I peeled off, I drew them close to the brink, and fixed also a long staff to the end of the float, which might serve me, occasionally, either for oar or rudder.

This work being finished, we prepared ourselves for setting out directly; we stripped ourselves naked, and made a compact bundle of our clothes, which we fastened together with some more of the tough bark with which I had bound the trees. We used this precaution, in order to be the less incumbered with them, if we should happen to be cast away; and, by tying up our wretched habilaments in one parcel, I might be the better able to tow them along, if I should be reduced to the necessity of swimming on shore again. The event shewed the prudence of such precautions.

The necessity of the circumstances to which Mad. La Couture and I were by this time reduced, rendered all regard to the decency of appearances a matter below our attention. We had, I dare pronounce, throughout all our troubles, never considered each other as of different sexes. I saw in her, nothing but the natural feebleness of a woman; nor did she reflect upon any thing in me, but that resolution and courage with which I had endeavoured to inspire her, and those assistances which my superior strength had empowered me to afford her.

Our apprehension about the accidents which might befall us, on this new adventure, would not suffer us to detach ourselves from our provisions, as we had done from our clothes; the loss of these could not be so fatal to us, as the want of the former: we, therefore, opened our parcels, and disposed them in such a manner as enabled us to fasten them round our bodies, with the least inconvenience or incumbrance to us, being resolved to save them with ourselves, or perish along with them.

We then embarked on our raft, which I launched into the river, and endeavoured to guide, as well as I could, with my perch; but the current hurried us away with a rapidity that made me tremble, as I thought it impossible to be able to stem the torrent, till it had delivered us into the sea: however, after infinite labour and address, by humouring the course of the water for many yards in length, to gain an inch in the breadth, we at last got about half way across, and were in hopes that, by such repeated efforts and compliances, we might possibly complete our traverse alive.

We were now in the middle of the river, where the force of the current was strongest, when we were dashed against the trunk of a tree, that happened to be bent down across the water. The shock was so violent that it broke

all the ligaments of the raft asunder; the timber separated, and we were plunged at once into the flood, where we should certainly have been both drowned, if I had not been quick enough to seize hold of a branch of the tree with one hand, and of Mad. *La Couture's* hair by the other, just as she was sinking down.

The top of her head only appeared above water. I pulled her toward me, and as she had not been quite deprived of her senses, I called to her to strike out with her legs and arms, to help me to sustain her. I then assisted her to climb up on the stem of the tree, the root of which being fixed in the opposite bank, I assisted her to reach the shore, at last, in safety.

I immediately unburdened myself of my load of provisions, which I laid down by her, and returned to the river, to see what was become of our bundle of clothes, which I perceived intangled among the branches of the tree that had been equally the cause of our wreck and safety; but the agitation of the water had just then disengaged and delivered it to the current, at the very instant I had plunged in to recover it, which I had the good fortune to do, though not without a great deal of fatigue and difficulty.

I gave the parcel into the care of Mad. *La Couture*, to open, wring, and spread out before the sun, while I set about making a fire, to dry our clothes more quickly, and to dress part of the tortoise we had brought over with us; for we were so fortunate not to lose any thing by being overset, except the raft, which could now have been of no further service to us.

After having put on our clothes, and refreshed ourselves with a good meal, we took care to dry the rest of our provisions before the fire; which work gave us sufficient employment for the remainder of that day. We passed the night in this place, with the usual precautions; and the next morning, being much recruited by food and sleep, we set forward toward *St. Mark*, in the *Apalachian Mountains*, bearing our course eastward, as much as we could, and trembling every step we went, for fear of mistaking our road.

A wood that we met with in our course, we found almost impracticable to pass through, on account of the strong reeds and briars with which it was choaked; for the sort of shoes, buskins, gloves, and masks we had made out of the cayman's skin, had been quite worn out by this time, and finally melted into pap, by their late soaking in the water; so that our feet and legs suffered severely from the thorns and brambles, while our hands and faces were exposed to the muskitos, sand-flies, and wasps, as before, whose poisonous bites and stings soon swelled our bodies to an enormous size. Beside which grievances, we met with a less supply of suf-

tenance here, than on the other side of the river ; and what yet remained of our negro and the cayman, were our only support.

We struggled for many days through all these difficulties, which were augmented still by repeated sufferings, both of mind and body. No longer did fond hope sustain our drooping spirits with expectations flattering, though vain ; all distinction of our limbs and features was lost, and we resembled moving tuns rather than human creatures. We marched heavily along, hardly able to set one foot before the other ; and when we sat down to rest, it required our utmost efforts to raise ourselves from the ground again.

Mad. *La Couture* supported her strength and spirits longer than I did. While my powers remained, I had been sparing of hers, and had taken every labour and fatigue upon myself that her assistance was not immediately necessary to. Her mind too had been always more at rest than mine ; because she acquiesced generally in the exertions of my forecast and endeavours. All the difficulties of our situation and circumstances had hitherto rested chiefly on me ; but the weight of our misfortunes became at last too heavy for my strength, or rather weakness, to support.

One day, not being able to stir any farther, totally debilitated, and almost deprived of sight by the blisters which the venom of the insects had raised about my eyes, I laid myself down on the shore which we had then reached, about an hundred yards from the sea ; and after reposing my limbs for an hour, beneath a spreading tree, I attempted to rise again, with a purpose of continuing our march ; but in vain. I felt as if the earth I pressed had been heaped upon me.

" It is over with me now," said I to my companion ; " here must I remain for ever ; my grave encompasses me ; this spot is, at length, the final end of my journey, of my misfortunes, and my life. Avail yourself of what powers you have yet remaining, to hasten forward to some inhabited part of the country ; carry with you whatever provisions we have left, and do not idly spend them in waiting longer here with me. I see that fate has opposed my farther progress, and feel my dissolution beginning from this moment ; the ability which still remains to you, shows that it is more favourably inclined toward you : take then the advantage of its kindness, and reflect sometimes with tenderness on the unfortunate associate of your miseries, who has exhausted his every faculty in aiding and relieving you, and who would never have remitted his cares for your preservation, if he had been able to accompany you any longer, or had it any otherways in his power to lessen your distress. Let us resign ourselves to the severe necessity which imposes so cruel a law upon us both. Farewell, depart on the instant, struggle

still for life; and when you may rejoice in happier days, forgetting in abundance the wants you have so long endured, remember only that you have lost a friend amid the deserts of *America*. You will, soon, I hope, be able to reach some spot where *Europeans* may be met with, from whence you may have the opportunity of vessels returning to *France*, by which I entreat that you will render me the only kind office that remains yet in your power, by sending an account of the unfortunate *Viaud* to my relations, telling them that I am at length released from misery, and desiring them to divide the small remainder of my effects among them, without the most distant idea of my ever being in a condition to re-demand them. Bid them pity and and pray for me."

Mad. *La Couture* could only answer me with tears and moans. She took my hands between hers, and pressed them with the utmost tenderness, while I continued to persuade her to our separation, urging the absolute necessity of it in vain. "No, my dear friend," said she, "I will not abandon you; I will still render you, as far as my powers will permit, the assistance I owe you, and which I have received so long from you already. Exert your spirits, and your strength may return again. If my hopes should deceive me, it will not be then too late to expose myself, helpless and alone, in this vast desert, accompanied only by my fears, and dreading every moment, that offended Heaven might let loose the savage beasts to devour me, as a just punishment for having forsaken you while there remained the least possibility of affording you any manner of relief. As to our provisions, we will endeavour still to husband them with the best economy we can; and I will now go in search on the borders of the sea, for some fresher nourishment, which may possibly recruit your strength once more. I devote myself, from this moment, wholly to your service; and, in order to defend you from the insects which would have more power over you, in your present helpless condition, I shall leave you covered up entirely with this garment."

She then took off one of her petticoats, of which she had but two, and cutting it asunder with my knife, spread one half of it over my legs, and the other on my arms and face, which perfectly secured me from the attacks of those venomous animals that were then buzzing all around me. After this kind precaution, she lighted up a fire, and immediately retired toward the sea-shore.

She soon returned again, with a tortoise in her hand, of which the first use I made, was to wash my stings and blisters in its warm blood, as I imagined it allayed the heat and swelling. I recommended the same medicine to Mad. *La Couture*, which she readily partook of, as she was as much distressed with the bites of these insects as myself. We then

composed ourselves to rest, for some time, but my weakness was not relieved; and I found myself growing so much worse, after I awoke, that I had reason to conclude I had not many hours to survive.

A large hen-turkey that sprung just in view, at that time, and ran into a coppice near us, gave us hopes that she was going to brood, and that we might be able to rob her nest of the eggs, which might be a great refreshment to us in our present circumstances. Mad. *La Couture* undertook the office of provender on this occasion, as I was totally unable to raise myself from the ground; and was, therefore, left behind, lying stretched before the fire.

I remained in that situation, for about three hours; the sun was near setting. I was in a state of torpid insensibility, without motion, and almost deprived of all reflection, like a person between sleeping and waking; a total numbness had seized my limbs; I felt no pain; but a certain lifelessness and uncomfortable sensation affected my whole body.

About the time I mention, I was roused from my insensibility, by the sound of some shrill voices, which awakened my attention. I listened with dread, and they seemed to come from the sea-side. I concluded that they must have proceeded from some savages who were marching along the coast, near the place where I lay.

"Good God!" I cried out, "have you determined on this moment for the crisis of my destiny? Have you sent these barbarians hither to put an end to my miseries, either by their cruelty or kindness? Whatever you ordain I resign myself to, without a murmur. Destroy or succour me. I shall either way be relieved, and shall equally adore and submit myself to thy Providence."

The voices were repeated several times, and a ray of hope began to beam on my mind. I endeavoured to raise myself up; and, after many efforts, overcame my weakness so far as to be able to sit on the ground; but this cruel reflection began to lessen my triumph in this advantage. Perhaps, thought I, the persons I fear are sailing on the sea, and bound to some distant coast; they can know nothing of me, unless they land near this place; and then how much more wretched must this disappointed hope still render me! In the helpless state I am at present, how is it possible for me to convey the least knowledge to them that there lies a miserable person here, who is in the last need of their humanity and assistance!

This thought threw me into the utmost despondency. I strove to hail them, but my voice failed me; the dread, however, of missing the only resource that had presented itself to us for so long a time, served to restore part of my powers, which I made use of to creep upon my hands and

knees as near the shore as I could. I could then distinctly perceive a large boat which rowed along near the coast, and had not yet passed by. I then raised myself on my knees, and waving my cap, to and fro, as high as I could reach, I made signals that I was obliged often to interrupt, as my weakness did not suffer me to hold up my arm long enough, and made me fall flat again on my face.

How much did I regret the absence of Mad. *La Couture*, during this anxious interval! She was able to have run down to the sea-side, to have called out, to have beseeched their succour, and to have summoned their attention; but she was certainly then at too great a distance to hear the sound of their voices, or she would soon have appeared in view.

In her absence I thought of every possible method of rendering myself noticed. I happened to perceive a long branch of a tree, within my reach, which I made use of to raise my cap upon, to which I fastened a part of the petticoat that my companion in misery had lent me, as before related; and this kind of floating-ensign was at length taken notice of by the persons in the vessel; which I soon perceived, by the sudden shout they set up, and by their quitting their former course, and steering in directly to the shore.

I immediately struck my perch into the ground, that they might not lose sight of the signal, and endeavoured to creep toward the strand, where I lay stretched along, fatigued with my efforts, but exulting in the prospect of an approaching deliverance, and putting up most grateful and fervent ejaculations to Providence for its kindness toward me.

On looking attentively at the boat, I had the inexpressible satisfaction to discover that the passengers in it wore clothes, which afforded me the comfort of concluding them to be *Europeans*, and not any of the savages of the country, which relieved me from the apprehensions I had laboured under from the first.

While I was waiting for their landing, I cast my eyes all about, in search of Mad. *La Couture*, whom I was impatient to see, that I might have the pleasure of acquainting her with the happy event which had arrived to our relief, and which she might be an equal sharer in. I felt my good fortune only in part, without her participation of it. The tender cares she had bestowed on me, and her resolving not to abandon me, had rivetted the friendship that had before attached me to her, and which our common misfortunes had given birth to.

She appeared not in view all this while, and this was the only uneasiness I was sensible of during that interval; but this delay did not affect my mind very grievously, as I looked upon her deliverance to be as real as if she had been present.

and that she could not be long absent to miss the opportunity, as it grew now late; and the falling of the night must certainly warn her to return.

The boat at length arrived to shore; the crew landed, and came up to me. The excess of my joy, in seeing them so near me, had nearly proved fatal to me; it threw me into a swoon, for some minutes, which rendered me incapable of speaking one word, in answer to the several questions they asked me.

A cup of *tassia*, which they poured down my throat, revived my spirits, and enabled me to express my gratitude, and to acquaint them in a few words of the miseries of my situation; which indeed they were sufficiently able to guess at themselves, on the first view of me, and therefore restrained me from entering into any of the particulars of it. While I was satisfied in finding them *Europeans*, though judging, by their manner of answering me in *French*, that they were of that nation, yet I never thought of asking them what countrymen they were, as this information was a matter of but very little consequence; it being sufficient for me that I was fallen into the hands of civilized persons, and that I thought I might depend upon their assistance.

I entreated them to shout and halloo through the coppice, near us, whither *Mad. La Couture* had gone in quest of the turkey-hen, in hopes she might be able to hear the cheerful sound of human voices once more, and be brought back again to a place of safety and comfort. This had its effect; she appeared, on the summons, and my happiness was now complete.

I saw her running toward us with the utmost exertion of her speed, with the turkey and her nest, which she had the good fortune to make a prize of. "My dear friend," cried I, in rapture, "these provisions are come most luckily, at present, to treat these kind deliverers whom the mercy of God has sent so opportunely to our relief. Rejoice with me. Providence never forsakes the just; and your generous compassion toward me has been sufficiently recompensed."

As the night was now come on, it was not thought proper to embark till the next morning. I then learned that it was the 6th of *May*, for till that time I could not be certain of the dates that passed. We all gathered round my fire, to which our new friends were so kind to carry me; we supped on the turkey and her eggs, to which they added some pickled pork, and a cup or two of *tassia*. This repast was doubtless the most cheerful of any I had ever enjoyed, since our shipwreck. Content of mind helped to relieve the weakness of our bodies, and I began soon to feel my health and strength returning.

Our guests informed us that they were *English*, the principal of whom was an officer of infantry in the service of his *Britannic Majesty*, whose name was *Wright*. I entertained him, after supper, with an account of our extraordinary hardships and adventures; and I observed him frequently moved at the miseries we had been reduced to; but he was more particularly shocked at the necessity which had constrained us to seek our preservation in the sacrifice of my wretched negro. He then desired to look at what remained of this cannibal food; and curiosity tempted him to taste a morsel of it, which he immediately spit out of his mouth with the utmost disgust, and pitied us extremely for having been obliged to sustain ourselves on so unnatural an aliment.

I observed, occasionally, that there was only the officer, and one of his soldiers, who understood *French*; and that all the rest of the crew were impatient to learn the particulars of my story. I thought I could never do too much for such friends; therefore I related it to them over again, in *English*, which I was enabled to do, by having been twice taken prisoner in the last war, and confined in *Britain* long enough to learn the language sufficiently to render myself intelligible to my deliverers, whose good-will I further attached to me by such a compliance.

After I had finished my recital, I inquired from Mr. *Wright*, to what lucky chance we owed the good fortune of his opportune succour? He informed me, that he belonged to a detachment stationed at *St. Mark's*, in the *Apalachian* mountains, commanded by Mr. *Swettenham*; that some days before a savage had reported that he had found a man dead on the shore, who by some remains of his clothes seemed to have been an *European*; that his face and belly were wanting, and he appeared to have been devoured by some wild beast. Mr. *Swettenham*, upon this account, had sent him off, with an interpreter, and four soldiers, to traverse the coast, and afford relief to every distressed person they might meet with in their way. To which he added, that his superior having observed the stormy weather that had continued some time, was in apprehension that a brigantine, which he was in expectation of from *Pensacola*, freighted with provisions for the garrison, had been cast away.

I doubt not but that the body seen by the savage, and which had been the occasion of Mr. *Wright's* lucky cruise, must have been one of our poor lost friends, either M. *La Couture*, or M. *Desclau*. They had been both drowned for a certainty; one of their bodies might have been devoured in the sea by a cayman, and the other thrown upon the shore by the agitation of the waves; at least we have not received any manner of account about them, ever since.

After we had entertained each other in this manner for some time, we composed ourselves to rest, but were soon roused again from our sleep, by a violent storm that arose in the middle of the night. The rain, wind, thunder and lightning, ceased not, for an instant, till morning. This tempest disturbed our new guests much more than it did Mad. *La Couture* or me, who had been so much longer used to such alarms; and beside they affected us less, as we were already possessed of a relief to all our dangers and our cares.

Toward the dawn of day the storm abated, and by sunrise a perfect calm succeeded. We then prepared to embark, and my spirits were so much restored, that I thought myself able enough to get into the boat, without any manner of assistance; which I was going to attempt; but Mr. *Wright* would not permit it, and ordered me to be carried aboard, saying, "I wish you joy of your seeming recovery, but you ought not to presume too much on it; husband your strength, as well as you can, to serve you upon more necessary occasion."

Mad. *La Couture* walked by my side to the boat, looking at me all the way, with a sincere and lively joy in her eyes. "Reflect, now," said she, "whether I was not in the right to abide still with you, notwithstanding your generous dismissal of my service. We are both of us, thank God, alive, and in a state to enjoy the blessings of life, without danger, or remorse. How wretched should I be, even in my present circumstances, if, by obeying your pressing instances, I had met with this deliverance, without being able to have shared it with you!"

When I had got into the boat, I resigned myself entirely to repose, as having now no other care upon my mind, and Mr. *Wright* thought of putting an end to his expedition. He had already traversed all the isles, except one, and proceeded now toward that, in his tour back to *S. Mark's*. We arrived there after about twelve hours sail with a favourable gale; and I recollected it to be the one from whence Mad. *La Couture* and I had departed together, and where her son had been left to expire.

The miseries I had endured, every moment, since that event, had afforded me but little leisure to reflect upon his situation; but my return to the very spot again affected my mind so strongly toward him, that I let fall many tears to the dear boy's memory.

In the midst of my regret for his loss, I remembered he was not quite dead when I took my leave of him. This reflection roused me; and that he might be yet alive, and in a state to benefit from our succour, was an idea that flattered my mind surpisingly. In vain did reason oppose the notion, as a thing improbable; they could not prevail on me to quit

the place, without coming to some certainty about so interesting a fact. Accordingly I prevailed on Mr. *Wright* to suffer us to sail quite round the island, while the soldiers were exerting the utmost stretch of their lungs, in hallooing and calling out *La Couture*, at frequent intervals; but no answer was returned.

This silence, however, neither baffled my hopes, nor lulled to rest a certain secret impulse, which pressed me inwardly all the while. The poor young man might be still in a state to have heard the voices, but not in a condition of answering them. I recollected my own situation, in this particular, the day before; and how much more deplorable must his be, if he was still alive! In fine, the excess of my anxiety, impatience, and fond hope, became quite ungovernable, at last.

I communicated my thoughts and feelings to Mr. *Wright*, who, after having represented to me the fruitlessness of the delay which such an inquiry might occasion, had the complaisance and humanity, however, no longer to oppose his reason to my ravings; but steering directly to shore, sent a soldier to the place I pointed out to him, as I was not able to walk thither myself, and directed him to bring us a speedy account of the state he should find the young man in.

This messenger returned to us, in about half a quarter of an hour, with a report that he had seen the body, and found it dead; upon which Mr. *Wright* ordered the soldier aboard, and prepared to tack about for *St. Mark's*. But I crept toward him, and raising myself on my knees, said, "Dear Sir, I must undoubtedly appear very troublesome and unreasonable to you, in the whole of this affair; but I have still one request more to solicit you for, with regard to it.

"This young man," continued I, "was dear, both to his mother and to me; his generous fortitude alone prevailed on us to leave this island. I, therefore, owe him whatever return of gratitude may be in my power. He is now, alas! beyond the reach of every duty of humanity, except the last: suffer me then, to discharge that debt, by allowing me time just to step on shore, and inter the body with as much decency as our present hurry and circumstances may permit."

Mr. *Wright*, who continued to behave with remarkable tenderness and indulgence toward me, acceded to this request, also, and ordered all his men to attend and carry me to the corpse. Mad. *La Couture* would, likewise, perform her part in this pious office. "My unhappy child," said she, with a heavy sigh, "has followed his dear father to the grave, and his mother cannot long survive them. The

deliverance I have met with, has come, alas! too late, since I cannot partake the benefit of it with either of them."

We all went together to the place, where the young man lay stretched at length on the ground, with his face to the earth; his skin was all parched with the sun and wind; he sent forth a putrid smell, like a body that had lain too long unburied; and the worms had already taken possession of his legs and thighs. In short, he was become an object offensive to the senses, and shocking to humanity.

I kneeled down in prayer, while the soldiers were digging his grave; having finished which, they came to take the body and lay it in. But what was their surprise, mine, and his mother's, when one of the men who had laid his hand under his breast, in order to raise him up, cried out that he felt him still warm, and perceived his heart yet in motion; and I saw one of his legs, at the same time, draw itself up as soon as another of the soldiers put his hand to it!

On the instant we all of us exerted our utmost endeavours to render him every manner of assistance in our power; we forced some *lassia*, mixed with fresh water, down his throat, and made use of the same lotion to wash and cleanse the wounds in his limbs, from which we picked out a great many worms that had formed their nests there, and were devouring him piece-meal.

Mad. *La Couture*, rendered motionless at first with astonishment, became soon transported from the extreme of despair to hope, from grief to joy; and finding that her dear child, whose death she had been certain of the moment before, still breathed, continued for some minutes to distrust her senses, crying out, in a kind of delirium, "Is it possible? great God! O, my friends, do not impose on me; give me certain conviction of this miracle, and do not sport with my distraction, by possessing my mind with false hopes, that are only to end in the most cruel disappointments!"

After this exclamation, she ran to her son, threw herself on the ground by him, examined his breast, his heart, his pulse; then looking attentively on the countenances of those who stood round her, in order to pry into their sentiments about his condition, she turned again to him, caught him in her arms, and endeavoured to warm him into life, by her kisses and embraces, till we were obliged to force her away, lest the violence of her emotions might possibly have disappointed the very purpose intended by them, and have prevented us from supplying those assistances which we thought more likely to produce the happy effect we so much wished and laboured to obtain. I was so little able to administer any manner of help myself, upon this occasion, that I sat still on the ground, and held her down by me; saying

every thing I could. to encourage her hopes, and restrain her agitations. She listened to me with impatience, keeping her eyes constantly fixed on her son, and starting up so often to run to him, that my strength was almost exhausted by withholding her from interrupting the operations that were necessary for the recovery of him.

"Have but a moment's calmness," said I to her: "suffer those generous *Englishmen* to take their own way; your interposing may impede, perhaps totally prevent, the success of their endeavours"—"I think so too;" she would reply "I will take your advice, and sit still." In a moment after, she would attempt to escape me. I again exhorted her to remain quiet, repeated the same reasons, and reminded her of the promise she had just given me, not to stir. "I remember it," she cried, "I confess the breach of my word, and acknowledge the impropriety and hazard of my conduct; but, my dear *Viaud*, I have not the least command over myself, and am certain that I should perfectly recover my reason, if I was suffered to see my dear son again, for an instant, a single instant. Why do you restrain me then? This must be a mere savage cruelty in you. Oh! if you knew what it was to be a mother! Had you ever a child in your life?" Then without waiting for an answer, she would ask me many other questions, in a breath; as, what my opinion was of the business in agitation? whether I had conceived any hope of her son's recovering? &c. but not in the least attending to my replies; and all the while, endeavouring to get herself loose from my hold.

At length Mr. *Wright* ran to acquaint us that the young man had been recovered to his senses; that he had opened his eyes, wept much, stared at the strange faces he saw about him, had asked where his mother was, and what became of me, also. When we appeared before him, he knew us both at once. "You are here still, then," said he with the feeblest voice: "is it possible you should have remained here so long? I have not seen either of you for a considerable time. Tell me where you have been all this while."

This was neither fit time nor place to give an account of our absence. We, therefore, only replied, that we were then happily arrived to save his life, and relieve his miseries, and exhorted him to take courage, and be of good cheer, in order to assist toward his own recovery. We had him then carried into the boat, where I laid him down upon some of the soldiers clothes, which they were so humane to lend us. I covered him over with a blanket, and stretched myself close by his couch, in order to take care of him throughout the voyage. His mother lay on the other side; and I had infinite trouble in defending him from her extravagant fondness and fatiguing caresses.

As it was late, we made but little way that evening; and went on shore again, at the further extremity of the island, to pass the night there. The soldiers gave chase to some bustards they happened to spring on their landing, and brought us three of them time enough to have them dressed for supper. Young *Couture* ate a little of them, and slept soundly till the next morning.

The following day he found himself much recruited, but rather more in his mind than body; for he was now come perfectly to himself, and he had raved, at intervals, before. However, he could not recollect any thing that passed since our departure, except that he had often fainted; and that, between the fits, he had been sensible of extreme hunger and thirst, and had refreshed himself with the oysters and water we had left within his reach, while they lasted; but was so weak, that he could not stretch out his hand to supply his wants, and was forced to trail himself along on his belly, and feed like a reptile, prone on the ground. He was not capable of computing how long he had been left alone; and it seemed to him as if we had not ventured on our raft, but had met with all the succour we brought him, just as we were preparing to set out. We did not care to undeceive him, at that time*.

But the possibility of his ever being able to have existed so long, in the state I had left him, was a subject of astonishment to us; for had it only been a fact related, we should none of us have had faith enough to give credit to such an improbable story. We had quitted the island on the 19th of *April*, and it was now the 7th of *May*, when we returned to it again; which comprehended an interval of nineteen days, that he had subsisted, as it were, by a miracle. The hand of Providence was evident in his preservation; and this reflection affected Mad. *La Couture* so strongly, that, throwing herself on her knees; "Merciful God!" cried she out, "thou hast renewed the life of my son; thou hast lent him to me, even beyond my hopes! O spare him to me still! Complete thy bounty, and grant me, even in this world, this only recompence for all the miseries I have already sustained! But if thou wilt take him to thyself; if thou hast only respited his doom, to afford me this short gleam of joy; O inspire me with fortitude sufficient to support myself

* The writer seems to contradict himself, a little, in this place; for, just before, the invalid is said to have been surprised how they could have remained so long in the island, without returning to take some further care of him; so that he appears to have had a better notion of the interval, at first, than now. But, 'tis probable that M. Viaud might have only transposed these circumstances, in the hurry of his recital.

under this last, this worst of misfortunes, or suffer me to feel the stroke of fate along with him!" I joined in her prayer, but was full of hopes all the while about her son.

We embarked again this morning, for *St. Mark's*, and the wind was quite favourable to us during the passage. I was convinced, from the observations I made as we sailed along, that, without the assistance of our good *English* friends, I should never have been able to have reached thither, by land. This place is fifteen leagues from that part of the *Continent* whence we embarked. The very length of the journey, then, was infinitely more than we could have accomplished in our circumstances at that time; besides the number of large, deep, and rapid rivers, which crossed our way, as I could very well judge, by the several currents I saw disembogue themselves into the sea, as we coasted thither.

What insurmountable obstacles must these have been, in our then state of weakness! How often must we have been forced out of the compass-line of our direction, to travel up the sides of these rivers, through pathless deserts, as before, in search of some fordable passage! And what a number of leagues must these circumviations have added to our journey! But these things are beyond our power to compute; and the only one we can be certain of at present is, that it had been impossible for us to have ever overcome these difficulties; and that we must have perished with hunger or fatigue, in a very few days, in making the attempt!

That same day, the 8th of *May*, we all happily arrived at *St. Mark's*, about seven o'clock in the evening; and Mr. *Sweetenham* received us with the utmost humanity. He had me carried home to his own house, where having but one bed, he generously shared it with me. He lodged Mad. *La Couture* and her son in his corporal's apartment, accommodating them with sheets and blankets himself. His surgeon was immediately ordered to attend us all, and supply us with every medicine that might conduce toward our recovery. In short, there was no care neglected, nor article forgotten, which was necessary either to our comfort or relief.

Our good fortune had delivered us into the hands of a generous and benevolent man, whose kindness we experienced in every instance. What would have been our condition if we had met with a person of less sensibility, who thinking he had sufficiently answered the duties of humanity, in bringing us out of the desert, had left us to shift for ourselves, with regard to all other necessities!

It was now time that we should arrive at the end of our sufferings. They had commenced in a shocking manner the 16th of *February*, 1766, when we were shipwrecked, and

had continued till the 7th of *May* following, comprehending just eighty-one days. What a century did it appear to us! Through how many miseries had we passed during that unhappy interval!

It was not, therefore, extraordinary that our constitutions should be broken: the surprise must certainly be much greater that they were able to support themselves at all under such severe trials, and that we should ever recover our minds and healths again. However, our situation was critical for several days. Our bodies were swelled and inflamed extremely; and the surgeon who attended us, at first had very little hopes of our lives; but rest and proper nourishment, taken in small proportions at a time, restored us, by degrees, and repaired those evils which hunger and unwholesome diet had afflicted us with. At length, the tenderness and skill with which we were treated, had their salutary effect on me, as also on the young man, whose case was by much the most dangerous; but his mother recruited her strength much sooner than either of us.

I remained thirteen days in the fort, during which time I learnt, from a chief of one of the savage clans, who brought dispatches to Mr. *Swettenham* from the *English* governor at *Pensicola*, an account of the villain *Antonio*, and the eight mariners whom we had been forced to leave behind us, in the first island he had brought us altogether to. These unhappy men, after having waited a considerable time in vain for the return of the savage, and concluding, from former experience of his infidelity, that he meant to leave them to perish for want, grew into a rage of resentment against him; but in their frenzy most cruelly revenged themselves in the wrong place, by killing his mother, his sister, and his nephew, in their sleep. By this means, indeed, they got possession of their fire-arms, ammunition, and canoe; but this they were strong enough to have done without a murder. In despair the exigence may, perhaps—I speak with diffidence and contrition—both prompt and commit a crime; but, in an act of revenge, the motive doubles the guilt.

As this boat was capable of taking in only five persons at a time, they cast lots for the three who were to remain behind, and wait for better fortune. They parted probably with equal concern on both sides, as those that went were in as uncertain a state as those who staid. In two days after this event, *Antonio* happened to return back to the island, with a superior force, to carry off the remainder of our effects; and falling on the three sailors, slew them all.

When he came home to his village, he published this account of his expedition; by which means the savage chief, before-mentioned, came to the knowledge of it, and re-

ported it to us. We could never learn since, what was become of the other five adventurers; but as chance and probability were so strongly against them, I fear much, that of the sixteen persons who set out on our unfortunate voyage together, three only of us have survived.

About the end of the time I have mentioned, having felt my health so far restored as to need nothing more than time and care to confirm it, I resolved to take leave of my happy asylum, as an opportunity just then happened, which I was advised of beforehand, and which I had resolved to take the advantage of; for any other occasion might not have occurred, for several months again, as that port has but very little connection with the rest of the world.

The vessel I embarked in was to set sail the 21st of May, and was bound to *St. Augustine**, where I thought I might have it in my power to provide myself with those things that were necessary to my present wants, better than in so desolate and desolate a place as *St. Mark's*; where, besides, I could not well continue any longer, on account of the stinted provisions of the garrison.

Mad. *La Couture* would have come on board along with me very willingly, but that her son was not yet in a state of health to undertake the voyage, and she would not expose him to the hazard. Besides, she was a native of *Louisiana*, and had many relations in that country, which would otherwise have determined her to wait for a ship from that coast, which she had been informed was expected to arrive about the latter end of the following month, by which time her son might be in a safer condition to sail along with her.

We took leave of each other with mutual regret. Our having travelled and suffered together so long, had bound us in the tenderest ties of friendship. We felt as if part of ourselves was missing, when we were a moment out of each other's sight; but we had been long used to be governed by necessity, and this obliged us to take different routes; but with this happy reflection, that our miseries were at an end, and that no further anxiety remained in our minds with regard to the fate of one another.

Our adieus were tender. There was no restraining the flow of tears that fell on both sides, while we were embracing, and promising never to forget or neglect each other. The young man, who was still confined to his bed, joined our farewells; and raising himself up on his knees, cried out, "Great God! preserve him who restored my mother to me, and called me back to life again. Reward him, gracious heaven! for such benefits, and so acquit me of obligations

* Another English settlement, on the east coast of Cape Florida.

which I have no other way of repairing but by gratitude and prayer."

This effusion of sensibility affected me beyond every other circumstance of our parting. I embraced him with transport, saying that I was already overpaid, by his sentiments of me; that, in effect, he owed me nothing; for if I had the good fortune to be any way serviceable to his mother, her assistance had been equally useful to me; and that, with regard to him, I had only done my duty as a man; and in redeeming him from the island, I could not think I had sufficiently expiated the barbarity of having forsaken him there.

Every time I reflect on the condition I found him in, I am shocked at myself, but rejoice again at that inward motion, that divine impulse, which, superior to all reason relative to him, or prudence with regard to myself, prompted me to land at that instant, to view the body, and afford the rites of sepulture. I tremble at the idea of his being now no more, if, when the soldier had reported his death, I had suffered them to have proceeded on their voyage.

At length I forced myself away from the mother and the son, and went to make my acknowledgments to Mr. *Swettenham* and Mr. *Wright*; but they would not listen to any expression of obligations, and embraced me in such a manner as augmented them. They attended me to the ship, where I found they had already provided me with ample stores for the passage, and both of them joined in recommending me to the care and friendship of the captain, in the strongest terms imaginable, and exacted his promise that he would pay a particular attention to me, in every instance wherein he could possibly be any ways serviceable; for all which they engaged to make him a proper return of kindness.

Mr. *Swettenham* then gave me a packet in charge, to be delivered to the governor of *St. Augustine*, as also a certificate of the situation and circumstances in which Mr. *Wright* had found Mad. *La Couture*, her son, and me; which voucher I desired from him soon after my arrival at *St. Mark's*, in order to support the authenticity of these almost incredible memoirs. These two generous friends then withdrew, leaving me affected with the most lively sense of admiration and gratitude.

I shall not trouble you with the particulars of my voyage to *St. Augustine*, which lasted for twenty-four days, but shall only mention to you one extraordinary circumstance, that from the moment we set sail, till we arrived at port, the captain seemed to have quite forgot his promises to my good hosts at *St. Mark's*; for his manners and whole conduct were remarkably brutal toward me, which I had not, by any

word or action, in the least provoked him to ; so that it was beyond my power to guess to what it could be attributed. This not only rendered my passage extremely disagreeable, but made it appear much longer than it might otherwise have done.

There was one article, too, that was a thing of more consequence to me than all the rest ; and this was the want of fresh water ; which cheap and common beverage he refused me, after the first three or four days of the voyage. The being deprived of a liquor so necessary to a convalescent, was very near occasioning a relapse of my former weakness and disorders ; and some very dangerous disease must have been the consequence of my remaining but a day or two longer under the barbarous dominion of this second *Antonio*. I landed at *St. Augustine*, the 13th of *June*. The ship anchored on the Bar, and the pilot's boat carried me on shore, where a corporal received and conducted me before *Mr. Grant*, the governor of the garrison, to whom I delivered *Mr. Swettenham's* dispatches.

If I had obligations to the latter person, I have as many to acknowledge to this gentleman. He would not suffer me to look for a lodging in the town, but ordered me an apartment in the citadel, and directed his surgeon to attend me constantly ; which was absolutely necessary to my recovery, as some ulcers had broke out in my neck, for want of fresh water to cool and dilute my blood for so long a time ; and my body began to swell again. But all these symptoms were soon removed by the kindness and care that were bestowed upon me ; and on the 7th of *July* I found myself perfectly able to walk abroad to see the town.

It was to the hospitality and humanity of this most excellent person that I owe the further preservation of a life which *Mr. Wright* and *Mr. Swettenham* had before redeemed. I can never reflect without the most grateful sensibility, on the goodness and charity that these three generous *Englishmen* showed toward me, and which a stranger and a foreigner might not have reason to expect to meet with every where. But I was in distress, which was a sufficient title to their benevolence. They are worthy sons of a free and a gallant nation ; and it must ever be a vain attempt in any of their rival powers, to think of combating their fleets or armies, till they shall have first raised themselves to a level with their liberty and virtue.

I staid with governor *Grant* till the 21st of *July*, when I departed for *New-York*. I cannot ever forget the manner in which this benevolent man completed his kindness to me. He sent for the captain of the ship to come to him ; and, after giving me into his charge, with the warmest recommenda-

tions of friendship, paid him before-hand for my passage; and ordered every accommodation aboard, that might be necessary either for my use, ease, or convenience; to which he added a portmanteau, filled with clothes and linen, which were a great comfort and refreshment to me.

When I attempted to make my acknowledgments for his bounties, "I must beg leave to interrupt you," said he, "upon this subject. You have deserved every thing I did for you, because you needed it; and I have done nothing more in your instance, than I should have a right to expect myself, in the same circumstances. But my consideration for your distress," continued he, "ought to extend beyond the immediate exigencies of your situation. You certainly have no money about you, and may have occasion for some small sum before you can procure assistance elsewhere; ten guineas may be serviceable to you in this interval; and I insist on your accepting them from me. I hope that you will not have occasion for more, before you may be able to hear from your friends in *Europe*."

The manner in which this present was offered, with the generosity that prevented my making a request, which my necessity must have obliged me to have done in such circumstances, had a powerful effect on me. I endeavoured to stammer out my acknowledgments, but my sentiment was too strong for me. Governor *Grant* embraced me; "It is a trifle not worth mentioning," said he, "but you have too much sensibility. You'll distress me if you say any thing more about it. Do like me: Forget it immediately, as I have myself already done."

I was forced to keep the silence enjoined me; but my heart and eyes were eloquent. A messenger from the ship came then to summon me away, and I embraced and quitted my benefactor with the utmost tenderness and regret.

After fourteen days sail, with a captain the very reverse of the former, and who, from the apparent goodness of his own nature, would have treated me as kindly as he did, though I had not been recommended to him by the governor, I arrived at *New-York*, on the 3d of *August*.

I made myself known to some *French* people settled in that city, who, touched with my misfortunes, rendered me every kind of assistance in their power. They introduced me to M. *Depeyffer*, one of the richest merchants in the place, who generously offered to give me employment in my profession.

But upon hearing all the particulars of my story, "It would not be prudent in you," said he, "to think of entering upon an occupation, so fatiguing and hazardous as yours, for some time yet: long quiet and repose must be

necessary to your health, after the severe labours and disasters you have so lately undergone; and, in order to give this its full effect, it will be necessary, beside the help of medicine, to relieve your mind from all uneasiness, both with regard to the present, and future. This charge I shall take upon myself. From this moment you are to consider yourself as my guest, where you are extremely welcome to both bed and board. When I find you are sufficiently recovered to engage in your occupation again, I shall not oppose it, but help you forward myself, by supplying you with commissions for my correspondents in *Europe*. This business, I hope, is settled now to your satisfaction," said he, taking me by the hand; and, without waiting for an answer, called his servants before me, and gave them all necessary directions for my reception and accommodation.

I shall not attempt to describe, because I have not a power of speech equal to the task, the strong sentiments of gratitude with which such uncommon kindness and humanity affected me. From the moment I was redeemed from the horrid desert, when I was within a few minutes of my dissolution, I met with none, excepting one, but persons of liberal minds, humane hearts, and generous souls. Does the world abound with such? I reflect on my misfortunes, now, as blessings, since they have been the means of purchasing me the acquaintance and friendship of so many excellent persons.

While I passed my days in perfect comfort and tranquillity, under the roof of the hospitable M. *Depeyster*, I wrote to my family to acquaint them with my survival, after the variety of amazing difficulties and miseries I had sustained, during the space of eighty-one days. It was this letter that you had seen, and which being only a summary account of my misfortunes, did not sufficiently satisfy your friendly and anxious curiosity about me. I sent my letters by a vessel that was going to *London*, from whence they might be put into the post office, for *France*; but, not knowing how long I should remain there, I desired no answers till I could ascertain my future destination, and be sure of my address.

M. *Depeyster* kept me with him till the *February* following, and then gave me charge of a cargo for *Nantes*. I took leave of him on the 6th of that month, and arrived safely at port here on the 27th. My commission was addressed to M. *Walch*, whom I found as sensible to the impressions of my sufferings as his correspondent had been.

From hence I wrote again to my friends, from whom I have received answers; and, among them, your letter, pressing me to send you a minute and circumstantial detail of my Adventures, during that extraordinary period. I could refuse nothing to your friendship, and have ac-

cordingly employed what leisure my avocations would permit, to recite, in this narrative, the whole series of facts, in their regular succession of events.

I doubt not but this melancholy relation will affect you much, and make you often tremble at the difficulties and miseries of your friends. May the dispatch with which I have acquitted myself of your request, convince you more and more of the attachment I have vowed to you for life, and challenge an equal return of affection on your part, also!

ADIEU,

PIERRE VIAUD.



Printed by S. FISHER, No. 10, St. John's Lane, Clerkenwell.